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JANUARY 1957

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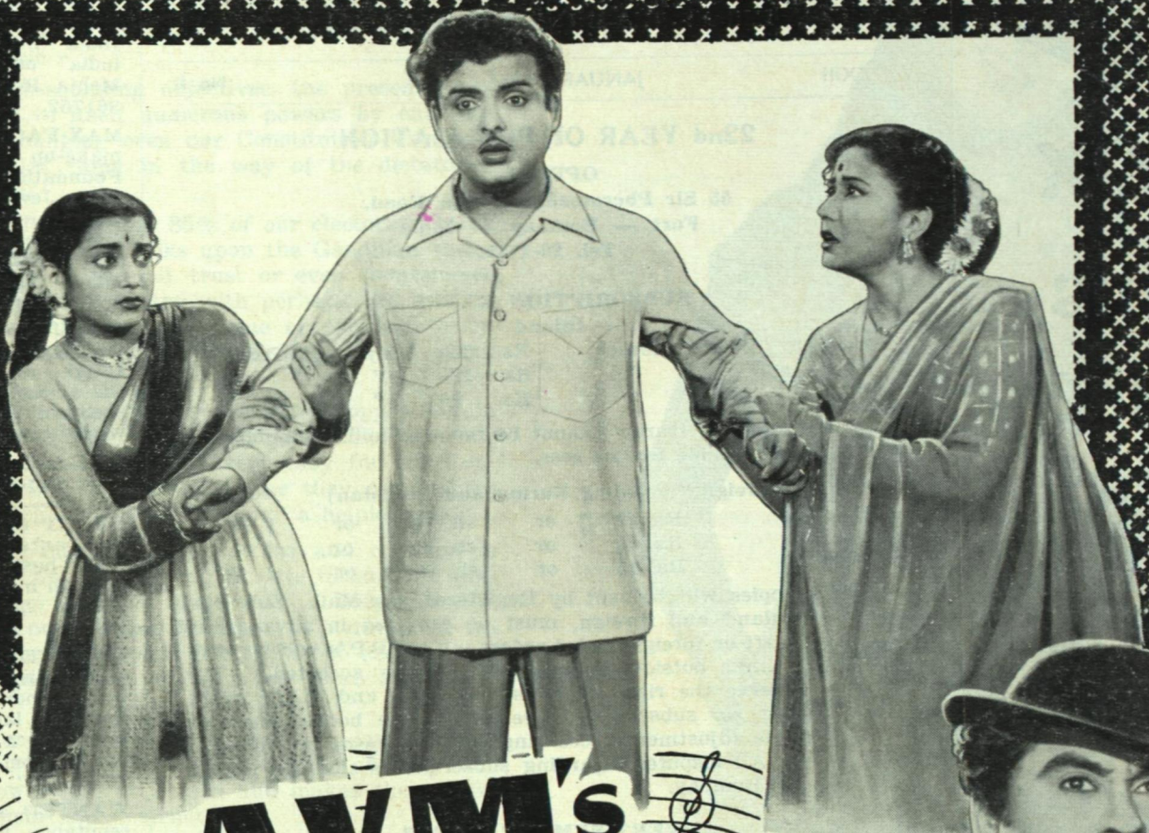

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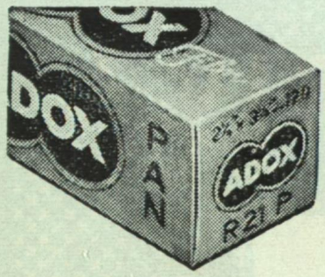

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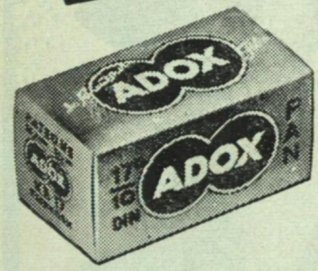

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Killing The Goose

Freedom has been turned into a license for tyranny by our white-capped Congress rulers under some well advertised and patent excuses of establishing a socialistic pattern of society, a welfare state with a better deal for the common man and a democracy of the people.

To fulfil these high-sounding objectives, the present Government has arrogated to itself numerous powers by enacting various laws and by changing even our Constitution whenever its democratic principles came in the way of the dictatorial ambitions of the rulers.

This has been possible because 85% of our electorate, being illiterate and superstitious, still looks upon the Gandhian thugs as angels of freedom and does not trust or even countenance other political parties in the country with perhaps the solitary exception of the Communists, whose theme of existence being crime and violence commands some support only in the urban areas.

Because our Congressmen have no effective opposition in the legislatures, there has been no democracy in India since our freedom nine years ago. It was thus very easy for our Congressmen to pass any and as many laws as they required to legalize their crime of ruling and "reforming" a helpless people.

One such effective instrument of torture and coercion is the Indian Income-Tax Act modified up to date to suit the present disease of socialism infecting the country. Very recently, T. T. Krishnamachari, our Finance Minister, in a desperate attempt to prove that he is different and the most original and brilliant one of his species, has added a few more codicils of his own to the Act.

The Indian Income Tax Act as it stands today legalizes loot and gives vindictive coercion a thin veneer of duty and justice. It pumps power into little men and makes them crazy Frankensteins of sadism and destruction.

Now, don't let us be misunderstood. We are not suggesting that the State should not collect taxes for the benefit of the people. Taxation is the main pillar on which all organized society stands today. Taxation is most essential for running our present Government on democratic lines. We do not therefore wish to comment on the basic tax structure of our country. It will always shuttle between our ideological dreams and the actual economic factors staring us in the face. We must all pay taxes, as willingly as we can to cooperate with our own Government and as much as we can to enable our Government to fulfil its targets of the Five Year Plans.

But the Income Tax Act as it stands today and the manner in which it is administered by men of little imagination and much prejudice will probably, as a a single measure, contribute the most to the failure of our much-vaunted Five-Year Plans. The Act and its administration seem to be intentionally designed to brand and abuse the citizen as an incorrigible criminal, to kill all incentive and enterprise, to stifle industrial progress, to nip in the bud all cottage industries, to directly provoke tax evasion and corruption, to harass and coerce the assessee, to provide an effective instrument for private and state vengeance and to legalize loot by the State.

This Act was originally designed by the British to squeeze the maximum juice out of their Indian slaves. The British always legalized their crimes but in perpetrating their crimes against their slaves, they often maintained some grace and pretence of fairness. Our

Motion picture producers know that there is more thrill in the curves of their heroines than in the stories which they give. Here is Miss Curves who not only smiles well but also dances gracefully. Shyama brings new sparkle to the screen in Producer Arora's new social romance.

To accept the primary assessment of an Income Tax Officer —a human being open to whims, temptations and prejudices— as a conclusive, ipso facto debt due to the Government and to proceed to collect the same with all the coercive measures at the command of the officers of law with disastrous effect, refusing to wait till the assessee has exhausted all his legal remedies of appeal provided in the law, is to deny justice, equity and basic morality to the law itself. No government in the world can expect a law like this to be respected and observed by its citizens.

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It is real misfortune to be a patient with a bandage over the eyes when the nurse is as pretty as Shyama. But then a beautiful woman capitalizes beauty. What can a Communist like Balraj Sahni have to do with a young girl like that in "Mai Baap", a social tale produced and directed by M. Sadiq?

And there is no sense in the provision for appeal if the Income Tax Department does not care to wait till the decision of the remedies provided.

A case of callous persecution and coercion by the Income Tax Department was brought to our notice recently. In this case, the assessee, a professional man, had an average annual income of Rs. 33,000|- for ten previous years. In the assessment year 1951-52, a case that was taken up for assessment only in 1955 due to the usual inefficiency of the Income Tax Department—the assessee was not sweetly reasonable to the usual suggestions of the Income Tax Officer, with the result that he was taxed on an income of Rs. 2,56,000|- i.e., a sudden jump of Rs. 2,23.000|- in a single year, and a tax of Rs. 1,71,500|- was demanded from him within a week. The additions to the income were on grounds of income from "unknown sources" and the assessment was a "best-judgement" assessment. It was power and imagination at their evil best.

The assessee naturally appealed against this assessment on excellent grounds. But before the appeal could come for hearing, the Income Tax Officer began his persecution under the handy garb of duty. Penalty notices followed; an advance tax demand was made; business connections were notified; bank account was forfeited; his little property was attached and even the property of a near relative was roped in. In short, the man was completely crippled and made useless for further work or earning—and all this in spite of the Department knowing that the man was very ill during all its persecution and his condition had become worse and grave because of the shock to his reputation and prestige due to the immoral coercive proceedings of the Income Tax Department.

While this persecution was in full swing, one of the top officials of the Central Board of Revenue visited Bombay. From his sick bed the poor assessee phoned him up and begged of him to grant him (the assessee) a fifteen-minute interview to explain the circumstances leading to his persecution. The official said he was very busy and did not have time even to breathe. And yet the same man spent the whole evening and night of the same day (24th March 1956) in a private and secluded bungalow at Juhu with a drinking party in the midst of film girls and some Parsi industrialists of Bombay. What passed there is going to be the subject matter of a sensational book, we are told, and we shall, therefore, not dwell further on the midnight orgies of this high official of the Central Board of

There is more design behind those eyes than her innocent face reveals. Hiding the designs is an art which men must learn from women. Chand Usmani makes a thousand hearts jump in "Duniya Rang Rangeli", a social tale produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

Revenue, who sets a bad example to his subordinates by being so easily accessible to rich people and by indulging in prohibited and illicit pleasures in a city of Prohibition and Morarji Desai.

In a debate in the Lok Sabha, on July 20, 1956, over Mr. H. V. Kamath's resolution demanding the appointment of a commission to inquire into the working of the Income Tax Department, Mr. M. C. Shah, Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, frankly admitted that the Income Tax Department was guilty of harassment of the assessees. He further said, "I admit there is corruption. Though we are not 100% successful, I may inform the House that we have been successful to a certain extent. Six officers have been dismissed very recently and I invite all members to supply me with any information they may have and I can assure the House that the matter will be taken up immediately to its logical end."

Here is a good and honest man sincerely trying to weed out corruption from the Income Tax Department. But what can one honest man do when the whole damn structure is corrupt, vicious and vindictive? And what can any Finance Minister do when even a top man of the Central Board of Revenue —the body that is supposed to be in charge of the whole administration—is so easily accessible and is found in questionable company and prohibited haunts obviously for immoral and illegal purposes?

Before we suggest a way out of this unholy mess, let us take a quick review of the superiors who control the central monster—the Income Tax Officer.

The immediate superior of the Income Tax Officer is the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner. We will call him I.A.C. to save our space and breath. The I.A.C. is a link between the Commissioner and the Income Tax Officer. The I.A.C. is the man responsible for the soul of the Income Tax Officer and for the smile of the Commissioner. He is like the glorified chaprasi who threatens the clerk in the name of the boss. The Income Tax Officer has to refer to the I.A.C. on almost everything that he does. The I.A.C. is at once the conscience and the security of the Income Tax Officer. When things go right the I.A.C. takes all the credit. When things go wrong he puts all the blame on the Income Tax Officer.

The I.A.C. is thus in a key position of privilege and he often uses the key to open the safes of the assessees to pay himself. Many men in these posts take all the profits of the dirty game and leave the Income Tax Officer holding the baby. The I.A.C.'s post is entirely useless and superfluous and serves no useful purpose beyond that of being a doubtful and delaying departmental link between the Commissioner and the Income Tax Officer.

The top man in zonal command is called the Commissioner. He is the local umpire of his cricket team. He is given an annual quota of tax for his zone. He has to collect this by hook or by crook. He mostly does it by crook because his hook can catch only honest fish.

The Commissioner seems to owe no duty to the assessees. He doesn't hear their appeals and prayers for mercy. He is

There are so many ways of frightening women. They get scared of seeing a covered face. But we think a man's face, when uncovered, is more dangerous. Chand Usmani and Johnny Walker have an exciting moment in "Duniya Rang Rangeli".

Women can never be good subjects for surrealism in art. Their thoughts are so ugly that they can be painted only in black colour. Jawahar Kaul makes a bad beginning with Anita Guha in "Dekh Kabira Roya", produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

Not all bachelors are so lucky as to find fortune waiting outside their doors. Anup Kumar is the one in a million to find a fine juicy proposition like Ameeta right outside his room in "Dekh Kabira Roya", a sensational tale produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

deaf—stone deaf. He grants no interviews if he can conveniently avoid them. He does not care to reply to the frantic calls of distress from the assessees. He sends two-line replies to the assessees regretting his inability to interfere with the decision and persecution by his subordinates.

From what some of the recent Commissioners have been doing in Bombay, the Commissioner's main job seems to be to train up his cricket team perfectly to see that if the Income Tax Officer misses the assessee's wicket, the I.A.C. must stump him. If the I.A.C. misses him, the Commissioner, the ever-watchful umpire, can always give a leg-before-the-wicket decision and get the assessee out.

The main theme of the Income Tax Department thus seems to be to get the player out—to ruin him, to disable him, to paralyse him, to disgrace him, to throw him out—and not to keep him playing the game to collect the runs. There is no sport in this game. It is a dirty, one-sided and unchivalrous game seen from any angle. It doesn't inspire in the citizen any respect for his own government. It doesn't make the citizen feel any unity of purpose with the ideals and objects of his own government. It doesn't make him love his own government or his own freedom. It is a game that breeds hatred and contempt between the citizen and his government, mainly because it is one-sided and there is no fair deal in it for the citizen.

Under Section 33A, the Commissioner has power of revision. He can, of his own motion, call for the record of any proceedings by any authority subordinate to him and cancel or revise their decisions as he thinks fit. And for this purpose, not only the Income Tax Officer and the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner are his subordinates but also the Appellate Assistant Commissioner. Isn't that a strange anomaly? But then the whole Income Tax Act would be found anomalous if tested by the touchstone of justice, equity and morality.

The records of the Income Tax Department, if statistically studied over the last nine years of freedom and compared with the statistics during the British days, will reveal that every year since 1947 less and less number of assessees take advantage of the Commissioner's power of revision under Section 33A, as they are pretty sure that the Commissioner, the grand umpire, will give a leg-before-the-wicket decision against them and hand over the rubber to his own cricket team. People have thus lost faith in the post-freedom Indian Commissioners of Income Tax and they invariably take a chance with their destiny by choosing the more arduous Appellate branch of the Department for getting justice.

On the first step of the Appellate section sits an officer called the Appellate Assistant Commissioner. This officer is a sandwich boy. He is under the direct control of the Central Board of Revenue and is accountable to it for his work. And yet he is a "subordinate" to the Commissioner for the purposes of Section 33A and depends upon the Commissioner's goodwill and recommendation for his own promotion, transfer and service record.

The post of the Appellate Assistant Commissioner is a strictly judicial one but he has to keep one eye constantly glued to the frowns and smiles of the Commissioner against whose cricket team the assessee always goes in appeal. No wonder that assessees often complain of having got cock-eyed justice

Shyama is a bit too fashionable for a village but then our villages are now community projects with American fittings. Balraj Sahni is therefore not much shocked to discover Shyama in "Mai Baap", a social tale produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

at the Appellate Assistant Commissioner's stage and they prepare for the Appellate Tribunal.

As we have said before, the general belief is that the assessee gets full justice normally from the Appellate Tribunal. Some, of course, say that the Appellate Tribunal does not give enough time to an assessee and does not hear him out fully but gives many summary decisions against which there is no further appeal. If this charge is true, the members of the Appellate Tribunal must give it a serious ear and see that their high reputation for justice is not embarrassed even in the slightest manner. The assessees deserve this small human consideration as they travel a long way and go through various vicissitudes before they reach the fabulous Indra Sabha in high heavens. Having travelled that far, they are at least entitled to a patient hearing.

So far we have only talked of the mechanics that run the income tax machine for grinding one and all. With the present set-up both the machine and the mechanics have become unpopular. Tax collection can never be a popular game but it can certainly be less odious if the law takes a little more equity and morality and the administrators show a little more efficiency and humanity.

We suggest a few basic changes in the law as follows:—

1. Revise the law and word it in letter and spirit for free citizens and not for erstwhile slaves of a foreign power. Respect the citizen who pays tax to the State by the sweat of his brow and not treat him like a chronic criminal. The language of this law should be simple and dignified.

2. Any increase in the annual tax, which is over and above the average annual tax during the previous five years of an assessee, should not be considered as an ipso facto levy until the assessee has had a full opportunity to exhaust all his remedies of appeal till the Supreme Court.

3. While the average annual tax according to previous five years may be collected in normal course, the excess should be submitted to all the tests of appeal provided for in the law. In no event should the coercive process of collection be applied to this excess tax.

4. The tax recovery process of law must not be mechanical. It must take note of the circumstances, human and economical, of the assessee at the moment of the tax arrears. It must not assume with a blind prejudice that the assessee is sitting on his money and hiding his assets. Proper and careful investigations should be made to check up the story and the credentials of an assessee and if at the end of such investigations a genuine case of distress is found all relief not only from recovery but also certain tax remissions may be given as is done in the case of farmers who suffer from floods and droughts. Bankruptcy in business is not different from nature's calamities like floods and droughts. If a farmer has a right to expect this relief from his 'ma-baap' government, the city tax-payer also has a right to expect similar sympathy and remission from his government without actually having to go through the shame and disgrace of an official insolvency.

5. The Income Tax Department must never send an assessee—be he an individual or a company—into bankruptcy or liquidation. Nor must it jail a tax-payer merely for tax arrears. The present Revenue law prescribing one day's imprisonment for every one rupee of tax in arrears is at once stupid and impractical. Such a law not only smells of inequity and vindictiveness but also makes the administration of justice farcical. This law seems to have been designed by the British to get rid of undesirable political agitators, who could not be grabbed under the normal criminal code. It is not necessary now as we are no longer slaves of a foreign power.

6. The abuse of the law, the scope for corruption and the harassment of the assessee all begin at one focal point—the

Income Tax Officer. This officer is charged with extraordinary powers. His powers are at once mandatory, discretionary and penal. He is the prosecutor, the judge and the executioner—all in one. He is in short the fearful Trinity of the Income Tax Department. His is an impossible post seen from the view points of law, equity and morality. In fact his triple function of the prosecutor, the judge and the executioner completely vitiates the law and robs it of all its moral justification—whatever little it has got.

We suggest the following division of responsibilities:—

(a) Divide the post in three sections:—

(1) Income Tax Officer (2) The Assessors (3) The Collector.

(b) The Income Tax Officer should form a unit of investigation with the help of his Inspector and take up the role of a prosecutor preparing his case against the assessee. He should enjoy the same legal status as the assessee. He should enjoy powers similar to those under the present Sections 19A, 20, 20A, 22, 37(1), 37(2) and 38. He should prepare his case, make provisional proforma assessment giving all his reasons, supply a copy of his proforma assessment to the assessee and lodge it before the assessors for hearing and assessment.

(c) The second stage should be a bench of two Assessors —one an income-tax accountant subordinate to the Commissioner and the other a judicial man knowing income-tax case law belonging to the Judicial Service. They should enjoy powers similar to those at present defined under Sections: 18, 18A, 23, 23(4), 23B, 28, 34, 37(1), 37(2), 38, 39, 45, 46(1); 46(2). Both the Income Tax Officer and the assessee should plead their respective cases before the Assessors, as should be done in a regular court of law. In the event of a difference arising between the Assessors, a decision may be sought from a senior judicial umpire belonging to the Judicial Service.

(d) The third stage should be that of tax recovery. The officer employed here should enjoy powers to investigate the actual circumstances of the assessee, grant instalments of payment, keep the tax in abeyance when necessary, notify, seize, attach or auction property and enforce or relax other and all restrictions necessary to collect the tax and yet keep the assessee living for future milking. But under no circumstances should a tax levy in excess of the previous average of five years be collected by a coercive process unless the assessee has exhausted all his remedies of appeal right up to the Supreme Court.

This procedure will guarantee a fair deal to the assessee who cannot afterwards complain of unfairness or injustice from the Income Tax Department. It will also lessen the chance of wholesale corruption which wholesale powers in the hands of one man promote as at present.

7. The post of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner is superfluous under the proposed set-up.

8. The Commissioner should merely be an administrative head and should have no power to interfere with the decisions of the Assessors. If grieved by their decision, he can instruct his Income Tax Officer to lodge an appeal against the decision of the Assessors.

9. The Appellate Assistant Commissioner should not be responsible to the Central Board of Revenue. Here again there must be a judicial officer responsible only to the Ministry of Law. The Appellate Assistant Commissioner must be completely free of all influence either of the Commissioner or of the Central Board of Revenue. The proceedings before him should be strictly judicial.

No change is required in the present set-up of the Appellate Tribunal against which people do not have many complaints.

10. The most annoying aspect of the tax assessment, however, is the time factor. Though Minister M. C. Shah told us the other day that Government had now employed 1200 officers as against 550 in 1945 and that they would show better results in a year or two in disposing of pending cases, it is still necessary to put a statutory time limit on the different stages of taxation.

In this respect Section 18(1), under which the Income Tax authorities collect tax in advance, contributes largely to the laziness and inefficiency of income tax officers and consequently to the heavy arrears of cases. If this section is scrapped or the investigation and assessment are set a time limit and made prompt and compulsory from year to year, not only will there be no arrears but there will be more tax actually collected. Assessees whose cases are taken for assessment after a lapse of four or five years have no money to pay the tax when the assessment is actually made. And thus begins the heartrending distress story for which the Income Tax Department is primarily responsible.

11. And finally the zonal annual quota of tax collection allotted to each zone lends an immoral complexion to the whole theme and purpose of tax collection. The State cannot turn an Income Tax Officer into a high-pressure salesman of a competitive product and ask him to increase his 'sales' by hook or by crook. A man who enjoys such fantastic powers as the Act vests in him today, should not be provoked to complete a certain annual quota of tax collection. Doing so amounts to tempting a devil to do his worst. And the worst is being done these days.

In this article we have not discussed the theme and structure of taxation nor its virtues or vices. That is altogether another subject for some other time. We have only criticized the immoral aspects of the grinding machinery and the vicious delight which its mechanics take in extracting blood from the citizens. The machine must be altered to draw milk out of an assessee. Giving milk doesn't kill the cow. But the income tax machine, as it is today, is designed and operated to squeeze blood out of an assessee. And one cannot give blood from year to year. If the income tax authorities constantly remember the difference between milk and blood, the citizens will not have so much cause to complain.

And to repeat once again! The Income Tax Act, as it stands today and the manner in which it is administered by men of little imagination and much prejudice, will probably, as a single measure, contribute the most to the failure of our much-vaunted Five-Year Plans. The Act and its administration seem to be intentionally designed to brand and abuse the citizen as an incorrigible criminal, to kill all incentive and enterprise, to stifle industrial progress, to nip in the bud all cottage industries, to directly provoke tax evasion and corruption, to harass and coerce the assessee, to provide an effective instrument for private and state vengeance and to legalize loot by the State.

A law that is so immoral in theme, purpose and execution ceases to be just. An unjust law is not a law. It is merely an instrument of torture and tyranny and cannot therefore get the respect and cooperation of the people. As Pandit Nehru says in his conversation with Mr. Tibor Mende, "It is always a happy combination of feeling that you are morally right and yet you are effective". A law must therefore be both morally right and yet effective. Our tax-collectors and law-makers should always remember that, if they want their work to be accepted by the people.

"Girnar", Baburao Patel.

18.12.1956.

EDITOR'S MAIL

(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)

The excitement of youth is such that women will chew anything to oil the mind and make it think faster. Youth is such a short season that women cannot afford to wait from one Five-Year Plan to another. Nor can they afford to be neutral. They have to be aggressive if the right rat is to be trapped at the right time. Vyjayantimala brings new excitement to the screen in "Asha", a romantic tale produced and directed by M. V. Raman, the box-office wizard from the South.

Dr. M. NATARAJAN (Madras)

Krishna Menon! Whose discovery?

Menon is not a discovery. He is a sculpture—the work of our little Kashmiri artist.

Have you ever wept?

Do you also want me to tell you how many times? The human clock is oiled by tears and even the dial of smile has a mist of sadness below it.

G. S. KARVE (Kalyan)

Why is Kakasaheb Gadgil in the habit of talking big things?

All these 'Sahebs' from Poona specialize in different sounds at different times.

SAILENDRA PRASAD (Ranchi)

What happens when Nimmi winks?

A producer is born. Though her lips are virgin her eye has given birth to many producers.

T. C. THAKER (Ahmedabad)

In which maternity home were you delivered?

It was nature's ward with the mountains all round and a river nearby. The sun supplied light and time and dried palm leaves the shade which mother needed. Evening breeze mopped her brow as the village midwife pulled out a mountain mouse without any trumpets sounding.

What is the best thing done by Indira Gandhi so far?

She protected the Prime Minister from the affections of his sisters.

If Sardar Patel were alive today?

Don't remind us of our lost manhood.

How far does Nehru's life inspire you?

Nehru's life provides no inspiration to the common man. One has to be born a Nehru. And then where to get a Gandhian lap to be cradled to greatness?

Feroze Gandhi looks to be a quiet man?

Ramkrishna Dalmia doesn't think so.

Who owns Pakistan at present?

A jungle of dacoits has no title deeds.

Do you still build castles in the air?

Those are the only ones I build these days. The others are taxable.

THAT IS NOT MINE. MY GRANDFATHER BUILT THAT BUT HE NEVER BROUGHT IT DOWN. WISE MAN! HE KNEW ABOUT WHITE ANTS
THAT LOOKS LIKE GIRNAR, BABURAO, I MUST TAX IT

Is Durga Khote mother of Shubha Khote?

No. Shubha has a brave and noble mother who wrestled with life to make it yield a few smiles. Her story is a greater

romance than many tales we see on the screen.

Are there traitors in Russia?

Then how do the Communists get all the target practice? When they run short of stocks they rush to Poland or Hungary.

As an Ahmedabadi I am proud of this clean city without a single open brothel?

I also congratulate the Ahmedabadis for keeping an immoral trade so perfectly underground. That saves them the trouble of paying income tax.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

What is the latest about Panchshila?

The Russians are rubbing it in Hungary.

How do you feel when you see tears in Madhubala's eyes?

I look for the crocodile searching for its tears.

How do you feel when you see tears in Krishna Kapoor's eyes?

Her tongue brings tears to her eyes. The girl is foolish and impulsive. She doesn't know how to turn her misfortune into an opportunity, in spite of good advice.

What is J. N. Ganju's close friendship with Raj Kapoor due to?

They have a common source of inspiration.

Has C. R. Mandy begun to mix with actresses?

Mandy likes actors more. He seems to believe in robust art.

Are you not a member of the Bombay Union of Journalists?

Yes, but they manage everything without me because I am a film magazine editor.

Do you know why I am here now?

To worsen our food problem.

Sri Prakasa to marry at 66 a Malayalee Nair widow?

A Nair girl? That is a dream that has ceased to come true since the days of Ravi Varma.

What happened to Vishnudas Shirali?

You hear him crying in the newsreels. The poor fellow seems to be suffering from some chronic pain.

What do you appreciate in Nargis?

She has talent and capacity to work hard. And she is a very charming person but for one unfortunate weakness.

What can we steal from A. R. Kardar?

You can't steal anything. Everything is in his wife's name.

TRISHLA DEVI (Delhi)

Is democracy successful in the world?

Nothing is successful in this world but the beauty of democracy is in its right to fail without being hanged for it.

Do dogs bark in America?

They do and you can hear them in Russia.

SUDHA KAMAT (Poona)

I admire Acharya Atre. It seems that you do not.

I do. Atre has a rare talent for abusing others. I admire everything rare.

M. G. SRIRAMAN (Secunderabad)

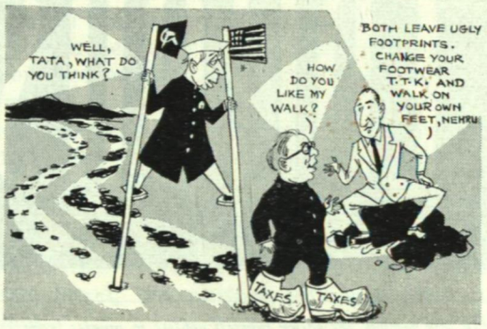
Why is it that Sardarjis happen to be the victims of so many jokes?

Doesn't that prove their good nature and culture? Don't forget that the Sikhs are a strong and brave people and they can turn every joke into a broken bone if necessary. Strong men who can take a joke are perhaps the most cultured persons in society.

MRS. V. RAMANATHAN (Mannargudi)

Why are we wobbling with our Five-Year Plans?

You can't walk well on borrowed stilts.


WELL, TATA, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY WALK?
BOTH LEAVE UGLY FOOTPRINTS. CHANGE YOUR FOOTWEAR, T-T-K- AND WALK ON YOUR OWN FEET, NEHRU
TAXES
TAXES

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

How would Marilyn look in a sari?

You can't wrap the cracker so completely and yet enjoy Christmas.

Is Deshmukh feeling the difference?

Yes, yes, his wife is feeling it more. She has learnt to smile these days.

You seem to be getting no more threats from Muslims? How is that?

The Government has taken over from the Muslims.

When Prithviraj sneezes?

His sons clap. All his sounds have theatrical value.

Imagine Marilyn Monroe slipping over a banana skin in a bazaar of our city?

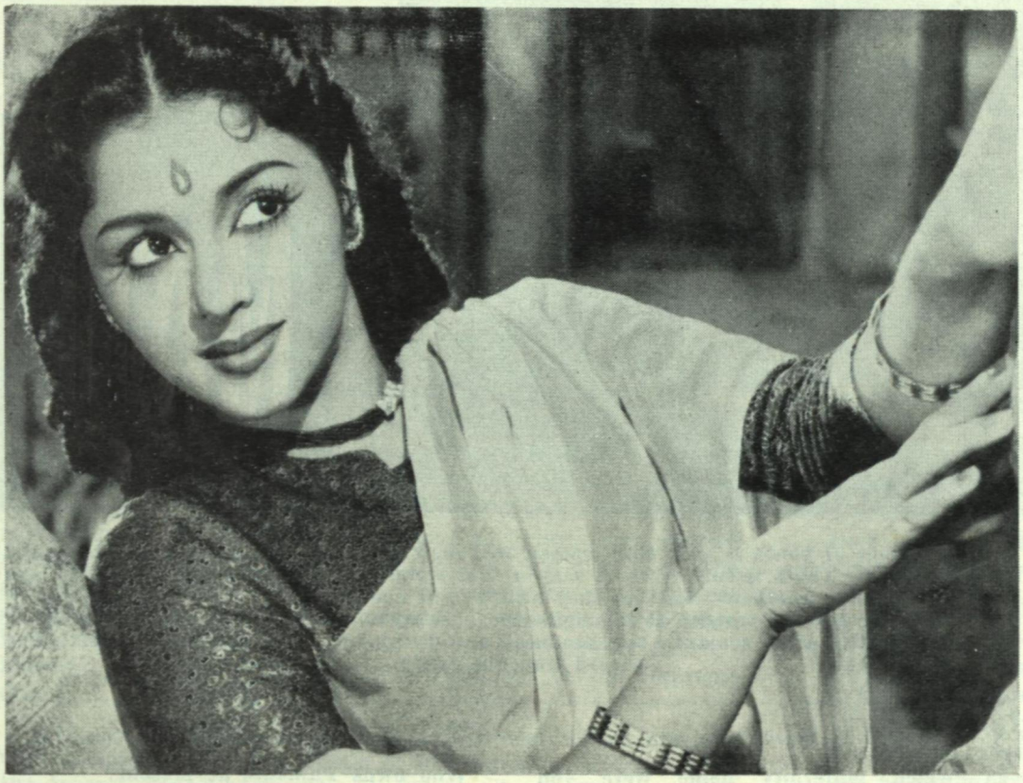
Don't worry, she won't get hydrocele.

JIWAT C. MOORJANI (New Delhi)

Is C. D. Deshmukh the lowest paid employee in the world?

No. He earns the glory of giving up Rs. 2999|- every month. Not all payment in life is made in rupees.

Is J. C. Jain a social worker?

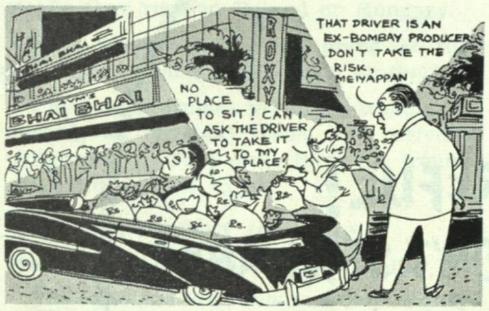


Seeing without being caught seeing is an art which women learn in their mother's womb. How much spying they do in this world with this subtle art can never be imagined but let us tell you that half the quarrels of the world are based on what women collect while seeing without being seen. Padmini is, of course, an expert and she shows her skill in "Payal", a dancing, exciting entertainment.

He is a social entertainer.

South Indian film producers beat their drums loudly?

And take away all the profits quietly.


ROXY
BHAI BHAI
THAT DRIVER IS AN EX-BOMBAY PRODUCER. DON'T TAKE THE RISK, MEIYAPPAN
NO PLACE TO SIT! CAN I ASK THE DRIVER TO TAKE IT TO MY PLACE?

Sindhi readers claim a good bit of space in "filmindia"?

They are my best friends. "Filmindia" is the second holy book to them.

Suppose I go on fast?

We'll have one grumbling Sindhi less.

MISS U. PAI (Bombay)

Why is Nehru trying his level best to get China admitted in the U.N.O.?

To strengthen the defence of India. U.N. membership is supposed to give a moral conscience to a nation which makes it more responsive to the screams of the raped one.

Choose whichever you like. Both are brides of glamour still waiting for the bridegrooms to appear on the horizon. Meet Nimmi and Kum Kum in "Basant Bahar", a musical romance.

WHY A TONIC ?

* To keep one's wealth of health
* To pull a convalescent through
* To make one fit as a fiddle

Human body is but a machine
Air, Fire and Grease are to machine

what

VATA, PITTA AND KAPHA
are to human body

Their order is health.....LIFE
Their disorder is disease.....DEATH

USE

NAVRATNA KALPA

Invented by

Kaviraj
Pt. Durga Datt Sharma
Vaidya-Vachaspati

A compound of nine gems, such as Diamonds, Rubies, Pearls etc.

AN IDEAL GENERAL TONIC

* To set Vata, Pitta, and Kapha in order.
* To gain lost health.
* To get back youth - and all it means.

Free literature on request

From :—

NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY
Jullunder City (India)

What is the difference between Dev Anand and Kalpana Kartik?

They use the same lipstick.

N. K. BHATIA (Ghaziabad)

When a Punjabi talks to me, I give him a rebate varying from 10 to 99.9% in all his statements. What do you do?

My range of rebate begins at 90% and ends at 100%. You must never insult a Punjabi by underrating him.

NIRMALA SAXENA (New Delhi)

Is kitchen the end of all of us? Can't you suggest an alternative?

Look at Amrit Kaur, Padmaja Naidu, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Durgabai Deshmukh and others! They never cooked. They only heated the Gandhi cap and got where they are.

How to cure constipation without the aid of injections?

Blind prescribing according to the Christian names of diseases is not permitted in Homeopathy. However, reduce tea, stop coffee and all purgatives. Take first thing in the morning 4 pills of Sulphur 12 x and last thing in the night 4 pills Nux Vomica 6 till you improve. Eat plenty of vegetables and bananas and avoid fried foods and white flour. Walk at least two brisk miles a day. Stop the homeopathic drugs immediately you feel better. Resume them if you again get constipated. When you get your first well-formed natural stool, send me a Shaeffer fountain pen (fine point) as my fee. This prescription is good for all constipated readers who ask me dirty questions.

MANSUKH G. BHAGAT (Bombay)

Why is India so full of vegetarians?

We have to deserve Panchshila.

Who is the prettiest of the Travancore sisters?

Lalita has brains, Padmini has muscle and Ragini has mischief.

What can Nasser do for India?

Take a loan from us. That is all an Arab friend can do.

Marilyn Monroe seems a changed woman now?

After decarbonising every car gives a better performance.

Does kissing affect blood pressure?

Yes, it goes up and the plugs start sparking.

YOU ARE COLD AND STIFF. WHAT IS WRONG? DIDN'T I KISS WELL?
Mooch
TOO-WELL! BUT MY BLOOD PRESSURE IS DEPENDENT UPON MY BANK PRESSURE SETHJI

EBENEZER S. SOANS (Calcutta)

What do you admire in Christianity?

Christ. The rest of it is found in other religions too.

Ameeta's eyes lack depth?

They have depth and death both. The girl seems destined to meet with a terrible accident. Let us hope it takes place in old age.

MISS REKHA PIMPRIKAR (Amravati)

May I share your troubles?

What is your age? And how do you look? But your handwriting is cramped.

K. K. HUSSAIN (Hyderabad)

Do patients in hospitals pray?

Those in pain are in prayer all the time. They don't need an extra Christian act.

S. GOPALAKRISHNAN (Madras)

What is your final verdict on Netaji's death?

He can't be more dead than he is.

Really you possess the wisdom of Solomon. Do you agree with me?

But where are his mines? Wisdom without the mines doesn't make a man a Solomon.

R. ATMARAMAN (Madras)

When will Rajkumari Amrit Kaur leave the Cabinet?

She will be the last one to get out. She is not sensitive like Lal Bahadur Shastri.

S. VITTAL RAO (Madras)

What type of people inhabit Peddar Road?

People with either surplus wealth or surplus privileges.

When on aeroplanes, how do you spend time?

I read even in a water closet. What do you think I would do in an aeroplane? The air hostess will engage the eye only for a minute. The rest of the hours must be usefully used.

B. SUBBA RAO (Bombay)

I think in your previous birth you were a devout Hindu who killed himself under the wheels of the Juggernaut?

Do I look like a man who would commit suicide—whatever the birth?

What do you like about the Portuguese?

The Portuguese are true to their creed of piracy. I like people with some definite character.

How would it feel to sit near Nutan?

Nutan is a chilly girl. She talks sense in a deliberate and measured accent.

I have come to a stage when I am prepared even for nuns, widows and the like?

Pretty desperate! Why not engage a young 'ayah' or join a dancing class?

Women who wear their saris tight must have perfect figures and not flat and angular ones. They give a bad name to the saris—and unnecessarily—just when it has become popular in the West and is bringing us foreign exchange. Let us see what Bina Rai is about in "Talaash", a social theme.

Are you not afraid of the Communists hanging you when they come to power?

I am afraid of the Congressmen robbing the Communists of their chance.

R. GOVINDARAJULU (Madras)

Did you ever think that you are a genius?

A man who thinks that doesn't work sixteen hours a day.

Your opinion of Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh?

I recently saw a photograph of women washing his feet. A man, who allows that and prints a photograph of it on the cover of his magazine, is years and miles away from saintliness.

Militant Hinduism! Why don't you preach it yourself?

I do preach it but words can't make warriors out of cowards. Warriors are cradled in the arms of brave mothers.

MISS RANJANA PIMPRIKAR (Amravati)

I feel like a prisoner in my own house. How's the world outside?

It is a slave labour camp. You are at least protected from the vagaries of the weather.

Nargis in a man's costume?

That won't make her a good loser. History is an album of the footprints of great losers.

D. V. SRINIVASAMURTHY (Madras)

If the Congress gets defeated in the next elections?

WHEN NERVES ARE LOST ALL IS LOST

* SUDDEN SHOCK
* MISFORTUNE
* WORRY
* OVERWORK
* CHRONIC INDIGESTION

are common causes of **NERVOUS DEBILITY**

* FORGETFULNESS
* FEAR COMPLEX
* DELUSIONS
* THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE
* HALLUCINATIONS

are its terrible consequences

To get rid of

NERVOUS DEBILITY

USE

NAVRATNA KALPA

A compound of nine gems:-
Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Pearl, Emerald, Topaz, Agate, Cat's-eye and Coral

Invented by:

Pt. Durga Datt Vaidya, Kaviraj Vaidya-Vachaspati

Free literature on request from:—

NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY

Jullunder City (India)

Then the colour film of Nehru which the Russians produced will be considered a box-office hit.

P. CHANDRA (Nagpur)

Please propose some name for my nephew born on 15th August, 1956, at 8 A.M. near the Red Fort?

The time, the day and the place suggest only one name: Bakwaslal.

F. R. BILIMORIA (Bombay)

In the struggle of life will you narrate honestly the great lesson you have learnt?

Advertise your failure widely if you want the world to tolerate a little bit of your success.

M. A. KRISHNAMURTHY (Howrah)

What is the height of Lal Bahadur Shastri?

He grew an inch after his resignation. He was sixty inches before.

G. C. AGARWAL (Ajmer)

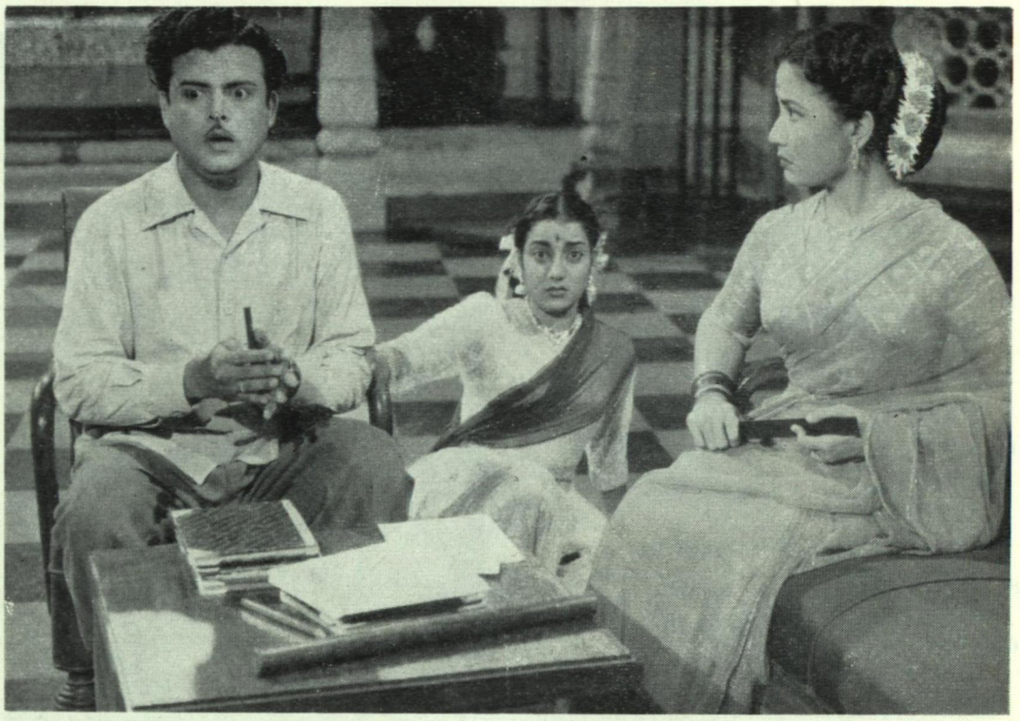
Has Rajaji retired?

Float that rumour after his funeral and see how many believe it.

S. MD. AZMATULLAH (Madras)

Is Mr. Sohrab Modi right in saying that "We can, and will, make better pictures, and improvement will come only when today's unscrupulous independent producers are weeded out."

Independent producers—unscrupulous or not—are not in the way of better pictures. No one stops Sohrab from making a good picture except his own terrific limitations. And in scruples there is little to choose between the independent producers and the other ones.



When a man works for a woman he has to leave his manhood at home and come for work. Meena Kumari is angry with the curly-haired Ganesh in "Miss Mary", an exciting motion picture produced by A. V. Meiyappan for AVM.

K. A. KRISHNAN (Madras)

I saw Helen in my dream?

Keep her there. Dreams don't need dresses, dinners and dances.

STORE
WHAT PRICE DREAM AND WHAT A WEIGHT TO CARRY!
WHO ASKED YOU TO DRAG YOUR DREAM TO THE CHURCH ? DON'T GRUMBLE NOW.
I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO MARRY, DADDY

Suppose I address you as Uncle?

I can only bequeath a blessing. It is not worth having an elder relative for that.

Have you ever pulled the leg of a girl?

I never risk a girl at that end. She often leaves the leg in my hand and I have to pay the bills.

You don't need a beard?

Not for journalism.

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Why do Punjabis walk so proudly?

Empty heads always float high in the air.

If Guruji Golwalkar had no beard?

We would know his programme.

What bad news can Maulana Azad hear at the most?

Total Prohibition in New Delhi. Everything else is going on according to plan in the Garden of Allah.

Can Sheikh Abdullah cook?

He almost cooked Nehru's goose.

Dahyabhai Patel is a man with a mission, they say?

His father had a mission. Dahyabhai specialized only in the commission.

Is J. R. D. Tata a practical man?

Yes, his companies are going to finance political parties openly. With open financing, bargaining becomes easier.

Where can I find virgins?

Try Tibet.

How to acquire your luck?

My luck is a long spasm of pain. Don't pray for it.

If Keskar wears a mask?

We can at least supply him a pleasant mask at our cost. That will be some mercy on us.

What is Chandulal Shah ailing from?

The screws! They have become slightly loose. A little success will put him right.

LOOK AT HIM

* His nose itches, or he has cold in the throat
* He sits up in bed or he runs to the window
* He feels choked and pants for breath
* His inspiration is short and quick
* His expiration is hard and long
* He sweats as he coughs
* His lips are pale
* His face tells a tale

THAT IS ASTHMA

A picture of Pity and Anxiety—Too deep for tears

CHANGE IT INTO ONE OF HOPE AND JOY

USE

NAVRATNA KALPA

A compound of nine gems:-
Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Pearl, Emerald, Topaz, Agate, Cat's-eye and Coral

Invented by:

Pt. Durga Datt Vaidya, Kaviraj Vaidya-Vachaspati

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NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY

Jullunder City (India)

The farmer has a double harvest—in his home and in his field. He loves everything—his wife, his field and his bullocks—and he loves to decorate them. Raj Kumar is happy with Nargis in "Mother India", a colourful epic produced and directed by Mehboob.

What has Pandit Indra taught you?

That doctors are fools and their science is stupid. Listening to his doctor I went for Panditji's funeral six times and every time I found the man not only living but kicking.

YOU ARE NOT DEAD, PANDITJI ?
DEAD ? I NEVER FELT MORE ALIVE - THAT STUPID DOCTOR OF MINE SEEMS TO HAVE MISGUIDED YOU - HE IS IN A HURRY TO CLOSE MY ACCOUNT

A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

What has become of Cuckoo?

She has gone back into the clock.

When will Karan Dewan act sense?

Don't know! He already has five children and that is enough nonsense.

Poor Nadira!

Let us hope she misses the slave markets of Arabia.

What is your opinion about Hindu-Muslim marriages?

They are heart burners. The Hindu woman can never be happy.

If Nimmi winks at Baburao Patel?

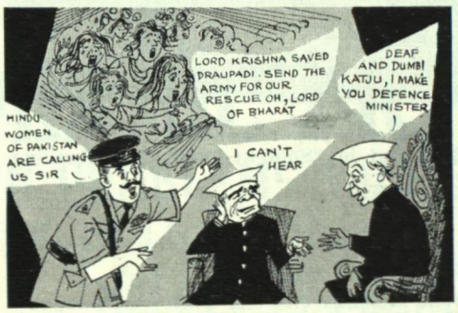
She will forfeit those unkissed lips of hers.

Has Azad passed the stage of political activities?

Age doesn't stop whispering politics.

Are the cries of Hindu widows from Pakistan still heard in Delhi?

No! Nehru appointed a deaf Defence Minister and stopped the disturbance. The widows can now scream as much as they like.


LORD KRISHNA SAVED DRAUPADI. SEND THE ARMY FOR OUR RESCUE. OH, LORD OF BHARAT
DEAF AND DUMB! KATJU, I MAKE YOU DEFENCE MINISTER
HINDU WOMEN OF PAKISTAN ARE CALLING US SIR
I CAN'T HEAR

BALKRISHAN BHAWANKHEL (Bikaner)

They tell me that Potassium cyanide is sweet?

I have not tasted it. I still have hopes of winning my income tax appeals.

Nargis also puts 'sindoor' in her head?

She has to for her role in "Mother India". It cannot be washed off easily.

C. NAGENDRAN (Jaffna)

Should a person follow Panchshila even if he finds his wife in the embrace of some other man?

Aren't Goa and Kashmir in the embrace of strangers?

MRS. LAKSHMI KRISHNAN (Madras)

Nira is a boon to the poor?

Yes, thousands of them are lifted to heaven through cholera every year.

Imagine Madras without Rajaji?

That is "dossai" without "masala". Rajaji is all the colour and spice of Madras.

What is the hereditary disease of the Brahmins?

A small mind.

S. RAMACHANDRAN (Madras)

Our Nehru is working 18 hours a day. What about you?

Same here, but without garlands.

Does V. K. Krishna Menon know ballroom dancing?

Bachelors know bedroom dancing usually.

K. VISHWANATHAN (Calcutta)

How can I hurt V. Shantaram?

Why do you want to do that? Shantaram hurts himself enough without others rushing to add to his worries.

What happened to Jam Saheb?

He reduced four ounces in weight owing to the Suez problem.

Do Russians still believe that Nargis is the wife of Raj?

That is what the Russians published in Russia and Nargis denied in India.

Has A. R. Kardar cleared your debts?

He has deferred them till our next visit to this planet.

A. D. JAIRAJ (Bombay)

A useless actor like Pradeep Kumar is making two lakhs every three months in Bharat. Whose fault?

His luck and your ill-luck. The impossible often happens in Bharat.

V. L. NARAYANA (Howrah)

A Calcutta film journalist talks like a eunuch, you know?

REGAIN PERFECT HEALTH THE NAVRATNA WAY

Humanity is indebted to The Science of Ayurveda which discovered the principle of the power-to-cure inherent in nine precious Gems and the principle of Potentization through continuous trituration.

These two Principles are combined into one.

By

Pt. Durga Datt Vaidya, Kaviraj Vaidya-Vachaspati

in

NAVRATNA KALPA

A compound of nine gems :-

Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Pearl, Emerald, Topaz, Agate, Cat's-eye and Coral.

An absolutely non-poisonous and non-injurious remedy for all

to get rid of :—

Digestive Disorders	Blood Poisoning
Nervous Debility	Fistula
Leucoderma	Sinus
Elephantiasis	Piles & Asthma

Free literature on request from :—

NAVRATNA KALPA PHARMACY

Jullunder City (India)

What does a woman want with women dancers? Women in power, however, seem to have male needs. A lot of girls are being wasted on Bina Rai in "Sone-ki-Chidiya", a thrilling romance.

Eunuchs also have fundamental rights in our Constitution.

I call all of them fools who want to read personal life stories of film actresses?

It is always the same story with only the furniture changed. Even the men are the same.

TIRTH K. AIDASANI (Bombay)

What restrictions had Adam put on Eve?

He probably insisted on her using the fig leaf to avoid getting a cataract in his eye.

Is the official home of the head of any State in the world today so lightly guarded as is the Indian Prime Minister's?

Three hundred armed men in civilian dress guard our Prime Minister. I don't think any dictator in the world is guarded that well.

What is Bhopal famous for?

It is now in the news because of the treachery of some local Muslims.

Will Muslims one day burn your effigy?

They have burned Nehru's effigy and Nehru is their champion.

T. SATYANARAYANA RAO (Kurnool)

If Nutan vomits?

Her mother will sue for damages.

They want to sell a priority coupon for 8 annas?

But you are using three on a single letter. All I want is a single coupon per letter.

MAHESHWAR PRASAD (Calcutta)

Y. B. Chavan—a change for the better or worse?

A young light foot is always better than an old rheumatic leg.

H. M. KHASAMWALA (Calcutta)

I am afraid of tomorrow. Are you?

Yes, but I use fear as an incentive to do more work today.

VASANT VALE (Poona)

Who will succeed our dear Jawaharlal?

We have a lot of dears in white caps.

PRABHU DAYAL GUPTA (Ajmer)

Vinoba Bhave also became sick. I wonder.

Don't wonder! Many saints have died of rectal cancer sitting too long on their bottoms with devotees at their feet. Death and disease have no respect for the spirit.

K. PONNUSWAMY (Poona)

'The face is the index of the mind' is an old proverb.

Look at Khrushchev's photograph with Nehru and look at his work in Hungary. These days vultures have the faces of doves.

B. NARAYANA RAO (Kuwait)

What is the most dangerous thing that Westerners left behind?

The skirt! It makes a woman a very attractive parcel. It exposes the goods and yet hides the theme.

RAJ A. CHHUGANI (Poona)

What is your father's weakness?

His second crop of children and its concomitants.

What is this place called 'Sona Gachi' in Calcutta?

That is a place where man buys meat for his bed and not for his table.

What did Marilyn Monroe see in Arthur Miller?

She wanted a talking book in bed.

Does Nadira admire you?

A woman who admires me won't marry an Arab.

If I flatter Prithviraj Kapoor?

He will flatter you back.

Dalmia has a beggar's face!

Most of the present day multi-millionaires have that face. Money haunts them. The rich of olden days used money to bring joy into their lives. They patronized various arts and crafts and used money in various useful ways to give the world a new colour and smile. They looked rich and happy.

What is Iris' achievement?

She has learned to smile on her misfortunes. That is a rare achievement.

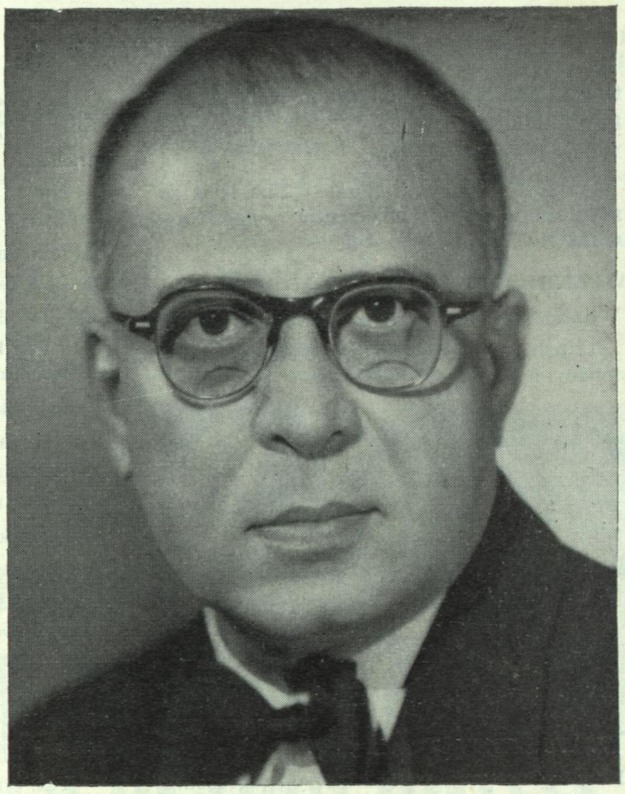
At times you look disgusted, sir?

I am, sir. Even T. T. Krishnamachari has started talking socialistic nonsense these days and with too much emphasis on "I".

Is A. R. Kardar a true Pakistani?

Perish the thought. Kardar is one of

READY AT LAST!



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- TO BECOME A MILESTONE OF
- HISTORY AND TRAVEL THROUGH
- CENTURIES WITH PANDIT

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those loyal Muslims on whom Nehru's empire is built.

What does Nargis hide?

A plan to build a home. But it is so revolutionary that no architect steps forward to build it.

SAILENDRA PRASAD (Ranchi)

What is the use of a binocular?

It brings the neighbourhood nearer.

C. V. WASUDEV (Bombay)

How is the armament industry progressing in America?

The production is fast but the sales are slow. The consumer nations are scared of fighting.

If Begum Para had wings?

She would fly to Pakistan for dinner.

What can we learn from Mridula Sarabhai?

Never trust anyone from Kashmir, least of all a Kashmiri Pandit.

When does a prostitute grumble?

She grumbles when a curfew order compels people to be home lovers.

Do you have any grudge against Atre?

No. I have met the man only once. You must know a man well to nurse a grudge.

What has Kardar saved?

He has saved a lot of money. That is all you need to eat and drink well.

If Raj kidnaps Nargis?

The attempt is the other way round. Raj is the goods.

Why does Kishore Kumar make idiotic faces?

That is a school of Indian acting which pleases idiotic masses.

Is Guruji Golwalkar a saint?

Yes, he leads a simple, selfless and saintly personal life.

Is Dr. Katju self-willed?

A self-willed man would not be in Nehru's Cabinet so long. See what is going to happen to Morarji.

Do you hate Joachim Alva?

Poor Joachim! He deserves a prayer.

MANOHAR S. (Simla)

Is Col. Nasser bold?

He has the mad courage of his race.

I am an atheist. Do you approve?

God doesn't mind. Why should I?

When does nobility become wicked?

When the elections come near.

ALEX JOSEPH (Bombay)

Why do some young men prefer rural girls to urban belles?

They are young men with the teacher instinct.

YOU ARE GOING TO GET A BABY SO SOON GANGA? I NEVER TAUGHT YOU THAT
MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME THAT IN THE VILLAGES WE LET THE BABIES GROW

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ROOP H. KALYANI (Calcutta)

If Raj Kapoor marries Nargis secretly?

A secret marriage is of no importance. It is recognized neither by society nor by law. Marriage is the end of all secrecy and a beginning of sanctity.

I like Marilyn Monroe's lips?

What else do you like, you Sindhi dreamer?

If we had one more Guru Golwalkar?

As I do not know what the one we have is doing, I cannot speculate about another.

Nargis looks stale in "Chori Chori"?

All old thieves look stale.

C. V. RAJAN (Calcutta)

Why do we need a Prime Minister?

How is our newspaper industry to run? Who is going to fill up the newspapers?

An infuriated bull and an irate housewife, which is dangerous?

You can't put the bull in bed and silence it.

Why is our cattle wealth reducing?

The appetite of our Muslim brothers must have improved in secular India.

S. KUMAR JAIN (Poona)

What else do you borrow besides money?

I borrow experience from the dead and wrest thoughts from life.

PRITHI PAL (Amritsar)

I want to yell?

Do, but find a good cause first, otherwise they will call you a Praja Socialist.

K. KHAJA HUSSAIN (Kurnool)

What is the most powerful weapon that India possesses?

Nehru! That is an ack-ack gun spitting out thirty thousand words a day.

MRS. RAJANI DEVI (Bombay)

How do you pay homage to the Mahatma?

I read Nehru's lectures in the desperate hope of finding something new.

How can we crush American pride?

Why should we do that? American achievements have been so great that they deserve to nurse some pride. Let their pride provoke us to do great things and grow our own pride.

Should we now start writing questions in Hindi?

I won't answer them. My court language is still English.

J. R. PATIL (Bombay)

Astrologer Phyruz Canteenwala says that there won't be a third world war?

Now you can be sure of the war.

Will C. D. Deshmukh be remembered?

No! Meteors don't leave behind a trail in the heavens.

Does Dr. Keskar ever get a headache?

What is inside that skull to ache?

V. Shantaram in court?

Yes, and taking oaths to prove the truth about himself this time.

What happened to the Hindus in Pakistan?

The tragedy of their lives is that we have stopped counting them.

M. G. SOMAN (Amravati)

In what respect is Morarji Desai different from Nehru?

Morarji insists on being called wise even in his stupidity.

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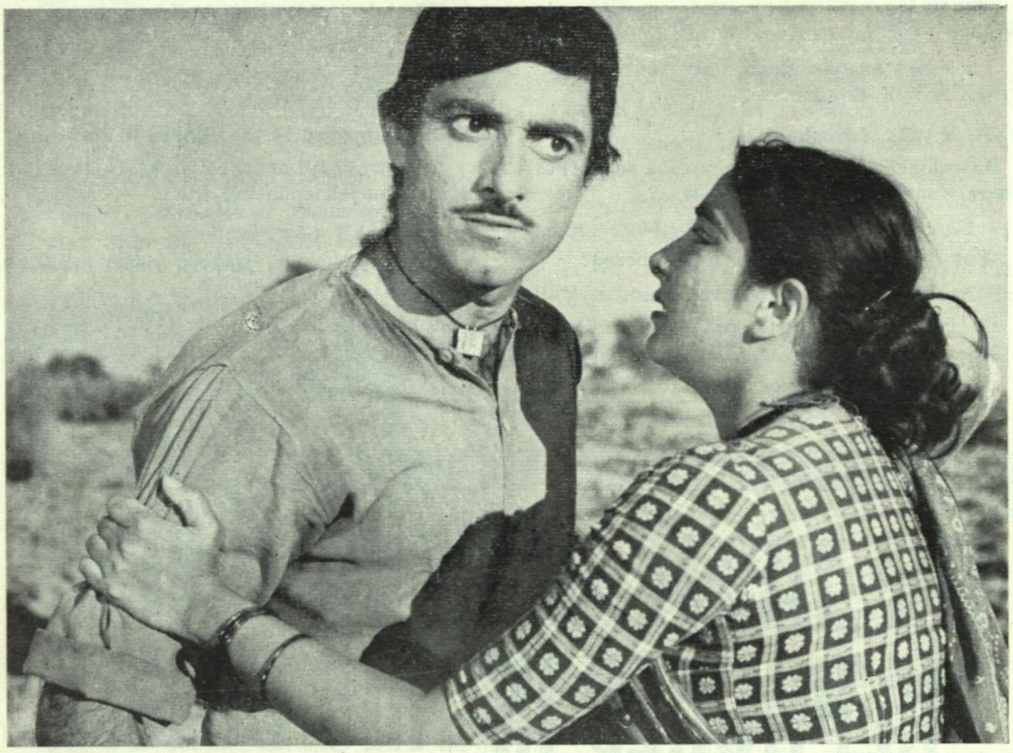


When fate mocks at a man even his own little son angers him and brings murder in his eyes. That is the time when the young mother faces the fury of the man and holds him back. Nargis restrains Raj Kumar in "Mother India", the year's most unique classic of the screen produced in colour by Mehboob.

A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

Now Nadira will chase me no more in my dreams. She is married.

That is right. Keep your dreams clean.

NO, NADIRA GO AWAY TO YOUR ARAB. I DON'T WANT ADULTERY OR ADULTERATION. I AM A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN
YOU FIRST LAW-ABIDING PUNJABI, I CAME ONLY TO WISH YOU GOOD-BYE

What happens when Raj Kapoor and Krishna quarrel before their children?

That night the children caress their mother to sleep. Women become lonely when their husbands become angry.

When will David's honeymoon dream come true?

David only helps the honeymoon dream of the other party. That way David is a selfless social worker.

A Communist here called you a 'rascal'!

Of all people, a Communist!

Why our Government forgot Birla's name while awarding Padmabhushans?

Congressmen don't need any more money to fight any foreigner. Now Indians have become aliens and aliens have become guests.

She sneers at me?

She seems to have met Punjabis before.

G. RAMANATHAN (Mannargudi)

Did Vyjayantimala invite you to her home?

Not yet! She knows I am a non-vegetarian Banjara and might take a bite of her.

Why does Dhebar dislike the Jan Sangh?

Dhebar takes his likes and dislikes from Nehru.

Do you read only 'Times of India'?

I read eleven morning papers of India every day and get more news about everyone else than of our own people and country.

Can I see you if I go to Bombay?

You can risk it.

Do Cartoonist R. K. Laxman and artiste Kumari Kamala live happily?

Wasn't that the purpose of their marriage?

NARENDRA SINGH (Allahabad)

How many years are you going to wait for the Congress to reform itself before you become a Communist?

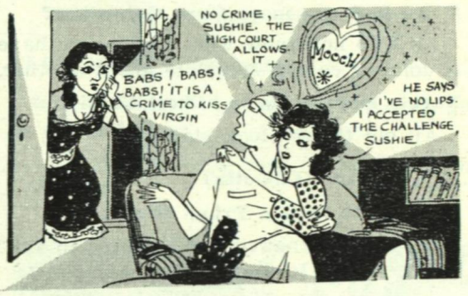
I will wait five years more and if I don't see signs of improvement, I'll preach Communism as a desperate remedy for a desperate disease.

Why doesn't Maulana Azad utilize his leisure in spinning?

Azad is a Muslim. He doesn't believe in this spinning nonsense.

Were you ever caught red-handed by your wife?

The murders I commit don't leave blood-stains on my hand.


NO CRIME, SUSHIE. THE HIGH COURT ALLOWS IT
BABS! BABS! BABS! IT IS A CRIME TO KISS A VIRGIN
Meeeh!
HE SAYS I'VE NO LIPS. I ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE, SUSHIE.

Y. K. KATTIMANI (Bijapur)

You are more than a soldier and less than a sage. Do you agree?

That is my tragedy. I am neither one nor the other. That is due to Panchshila.

K. K. HUSSAIN (Kurnool)

Of what use is a napkin to a nudist?

It can be used as an umbrella.

P. PANDARINATH (Hyderabad)

Miss Padmaja Naidu, a Governor!

That is only 5% of adulteration. Two more will come to complete the 15% female mix-up decided upon in the second Five-Year Plan.

P. S. GOEL (Meerut)

I think your 'filmindia' is read more by women than by men. Am I right?

Yes, and that is why Nehru wants more and more women to take part in the government of the country.

If you had been in the same circumstances in which our Ministers are, what would you have done?

I would have at least explained the circumstances to the people and not left them guessing.

MISS SUNANDA VAINDE (Bombay)

What is Malenkov doing?

Malenkov is busy digging Khrushchev's grave.

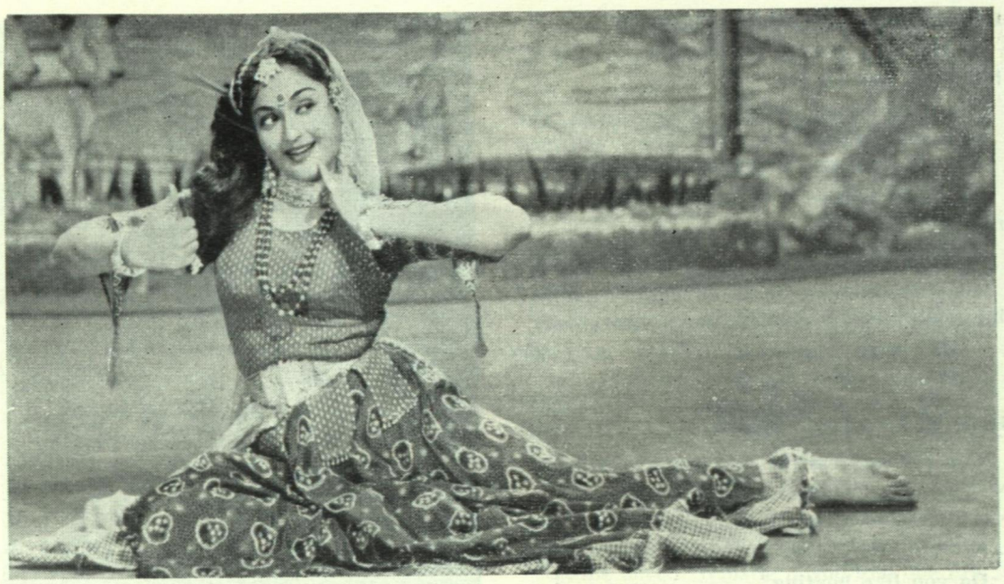
B. PRABHAKAR KAMATH (Manipal)

A maternity hospital just opposite a family planning centre! Isn't this ridiculous?

Put it the other way and you will see a remedy facing the disease.

My neighbours are prostitutes and Christ said, "Love Thy Neighbour". Is it advisable?

Yes. Prostitutes appreciate genuine love better than other women.



When a woman apes the Cobra she becomes more dangerous than the reptile. The woman's hood however has more attractive markings than that of the Cobra. Meet Vyjayantimala in "Aasha", a sensational romance thriller produced and directed by M. V. Raman.

K. G. MATHUR (Ghaziabad)

Does Nehru get a headache?

No headache after Deshmukh. Now he has a perfect team of lip-waiters.

How to kiss virgin lips?

Kiss them in your dream if you would like the lips to remain virgin and continue to thrill you.

R. R. REDDY (Hyderabad)

Prem Nath is silent?

So is Maulana Azad. Only those scream who sweat for their bread.

M. V. S. P. NAIDU (Calcutta)

I don't understand to which party you belong. Please relieve me of this doubt.

I am a Congressman, Pasupathi, and belong to the two bullocks on the ballot box.

KAILASH NARAIN (Bamrauli)

Have you any Anglo-Indian girl as your personal assistant?

Not at the moment, but I want one. She must be young, pretty, intelligent and hard-working.

VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

I shall congratulate Raj Kapoor if he marries Nargis.

How can you congratulate a man for committing a crime? Bigamy is now a crime in India.

Are you in favour of China's entry into U.N.?

Seeing what the three big members—England, France and Russia—recently did, has the U.N. membership any particular value or significance?

The Muslim League is going to contest elections in Madras?

And Nehru says that the Muslim League is dead.

I daily hear the children of my neighbour calling him 'Papa'?

Let him enjoy the benefit of doubt even if you share the secret with the mother.

NOMAN SHAKIR (Bombay)

A Hindu friend of mine says: Muslims are foreigners in Bharat. I strongly protest.

A religion can't make a person a foreigner but disloyalty to the country can. How many Muslims are loyal to India? Answer that and you know where you belong.

HARIRAM G. JUGAT (Bombay)

Why did Morarji Desai fast when he did not believe in fasting?

Poor Morarji! He has the Gujaratis' gambling instinct.

Why does not Nehru utter God's name anywhere in his speeches?

And confess his own inferiority? Nehrus don't believe in God. One Nehru believes in another Nehru and that way it goes on till you reach a Kaul or a Kathju at the end.

Why didn't the Government act with determination to suppress the "Book Riots"?

With the elections so near no political party will take a risk with at least 20 million Muslim votes.

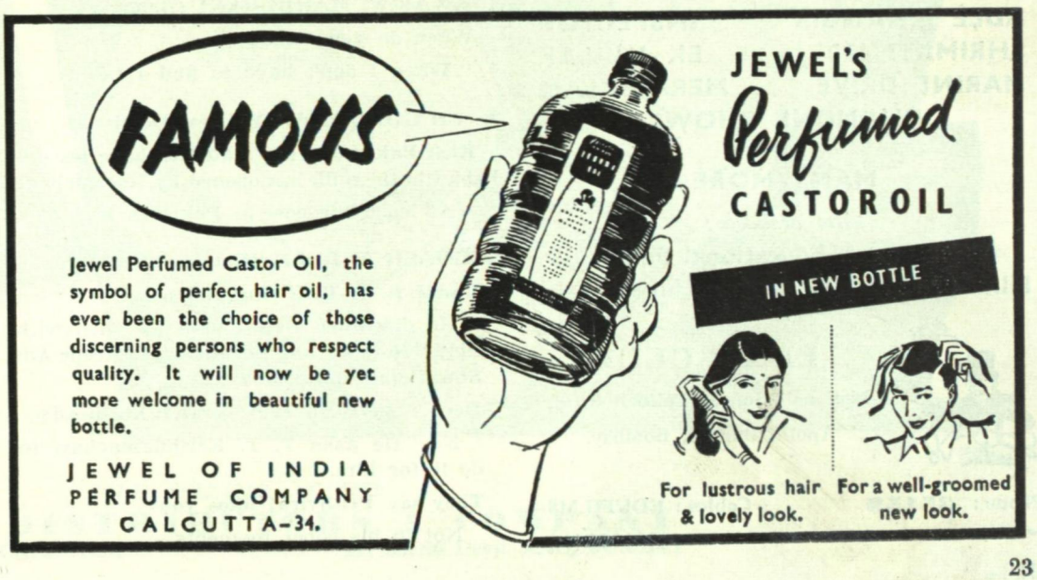
What is Nehru doing about the Goa problem or has he forgotten it altogether?

No Kashmiri has been locked up in Goa. Why bother?

M. P. ABHYANKAR (Nagpur)

How much do you know about medicine and surgery?

Just enough to be a good patient. I am the most drugged and dissected person in my family.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JEWEL OF INDIA PERFUME COMPANY CALCUTTA-34.
For lustrous hair & lovely look.
For a well-groomed new look.

AMAR S. RATHOR (Simla)

There are no prostitutes in Simla?

That is the height of hen-packing.

YOU SHOULD LET YOUR HUSBAND WALK ON HIS OWN LEGS SOMETIMES!
AND LET HIM WALK IN YOUR DIRECTION? NO, MY DEAR, IF HE GETS STUCK I PUT HIM NEAR A HEATER
I GET FROZEN SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW

RAJWANT YADAV (Rohtak)

Gandhiji was the greatest lover of Indian culture and Indian things but he wrote his autobiography in the English language.

He wanted to introduce an Indian saint to the Englishman. To the Indian a saint is not a novelty.

C. RENGARAJAN (Karaikudi)

Do you seriously want us to believe that you have run into debts and do not have your own car?

That is right. I do not lie because I fear no one.

What is your answer to atheists?

Don't bother! God doesn't need a defence.

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KAMLESH K. SAXENA (Agra)

If you visit Pakistan who will give you the heartiest welcome?

I have a young friend called Tahira. She will shed tears of joy. The others will feed the goat before slaughtering it.

General opinion of Kamini Kaushal as mother?

The children have to bring up the mother.

Was Jinnah once again at Aligarh and being multiplied in our secular country?

We have four-crore Jinnahs in India with only a few happy exceptions.

HEM B. PRABHU (Bombay)

Can you suggest the best vote-catching device for the Congress?

Prosecute Hindu critics like me and get Muslim and Christian votes automatically.

Do you like boating?

Only if the woman is worth all the trouble.

When does Mr. Patel go underground?

I don't go underground. I phone up the police for my warrants.

SECRETARY JOSHI SAID GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ARREST ME. WHEN ARE YOU DOING THAT?
DON'T RUSH US, BABURAO. WE ARE BUSY WITH CHOU. WE WON'T RUN AWAY. WE'LL ARREST YOU. GIVE US SOME TIME PLEASE

What is the difference between producer Kardar and father Kardar?

Producer Kardar uses the bank, father Kardar uses the safe deposit vault. The difference between the two is thirty lakhs of rupees.

ISHWAR V. MAHBUBANI (Bombay)

When do you smile?

When I don't have to find a fault.

R. CHANDRAMOWLY (New Delhi)

Rich Pakistanis are stated to have become babies in the milk bar opened by Noor Jehan?

At least one cow in Pakistan is safe.

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Can J. R. D. Tata sing and play?

He did when Nehru used to lunch with him. Now he has no audience except Adi Shroff and Homi Mody.

Does Seth Birla ever scratch his head?

No. He asks T. T. Krishnamachari to do it for him.

They say Prithviraj likes you?

Not in his sober moments.

All girls like to be married some day but film girls rehearse marriage so many times that when the real one comes along it finds them unprepared. Bina Rai faces some strong handling in "Talaash", a social theme directed by Vishram Bedekar.

What advice do you follow to ascertain the age of a woman?

I never look for the calendar in a woman. I see the clock. If the dial is good, I have time to talk.

Why has God created beggars?

To add virtue to wealth.

Are all the Sahus whimsical?

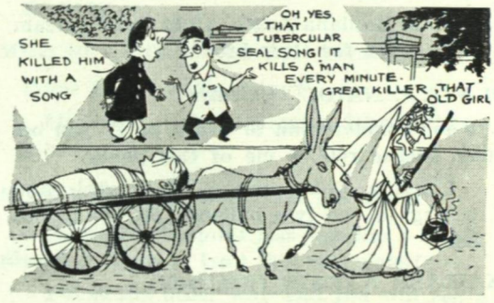
In distress people look whimsical.

Is Dahyabhai on good terms with you?

We exchange a smile without putting any price on it. Both of us are broke.

If Amrit Kaur bursts into a song?

Isn't Keskar enough? You get such suicidal ideas, Subhash! You seem to be suffering from melancholia?



What is your advice to Kantilal?

Cash quickly. The end of the harvest is in sight already.

Who looks after Kishore Sahu?

He has appointed Tolaram Jalan as his guardian these days.

Are Marilyn Monroe's assets mounting?

The last time I saw her I found them dwindling.

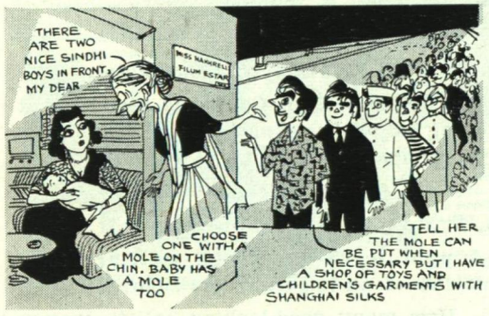
Suppose you elope with an Anglo-Indian girl?

It is not necessary to elope. There is no daddy these days to rush out with a gun. Daddy is back in England. When you kidnap an orphan, it is called a rescue and not an elopement.

M. T. KAMANDER (Bahrein)

Why cannot a virgin bear a child?

That is a common phenomenon in the film industry. In fact film stars often have to advertise for a father after a birth to give the child a social introduction with some sort of a father.


THERE ARE TWO NICE SINDHI BOYS IN FRONT, MY DEAR
CHOOSE ONE WITH A MOLE ON THE CHIN. BABY HAS A MOLE TOO
TELL HER THE MOLE CAN BE PUT WHEN NECESSARY BUT I HAVE A SHOP OF TOYS AND CHILDREN'S GARMENTS WITH SHANGHAI SILKS

G. H. OSMAN (Natal)

What is Congress without Nehru?

Without Nehru the Congress will once again become the biggest democratic political institution in the country. At present it is Nehru's fan club.

NARESH C. SRIVASTAVA (Lucknow)

Have you ever passed a couple of days with any Nawab?

A couple of days with a Nawab is suicide. A couple of hours is a desperate waste of time. I could never afford the luxury.

K. LAKSHMI (Madras)

I am searching for gold mines.

Same here! Whistle if you find one first.

Do you know what is brewing in the South?

The citizens of Kamrajya are slowly digging up the foundations of Brahmin homes.

Is not Tyagi fit to be the Defence Minister?

Of course, he is! In India anyone is fit to be a Defence Minister. The dead don't need any defence.

D. SATHYARAJ (Guntakal)

I've a hunch that I'll be a street dog in my next birth!

You will see plenty of life without having to wag your tail for some idiot.

HUT! HUT! GETAWAY, DON'T SPREAD THE REFUSE FROM THE DUSTBIN
EH, SETHJI, THIS DUSTBIN IS PUBLIC SECTOR NOT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. GO HOME AND ASK YOUR WIFE TO BEHAVE

D. K. DOKHALE (Indore)

Which is the proper age for telling a lie?

Nehru bluffs us at 67.

K. M. L. SAXENA (New Delhi)

Do you mourn your lost youth?

I have not lost youth. The law has robbed me of the right to marry one more.

HEM B. PRABHU (Bombay)

Why did God create prostitutes?

To save Himself from being inundated by the screams and prayers of housewives.

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Which is the best part of Sohrab Modi?

His wife, Mehtab.. She has a rare charm.

Which is the best part of Chandulal Shah?

His partner, Gohar. She has rare sincerity.

What will Nargis be without her brothers?

A boarding-house keeper without customers.

When did luck hit Raj Kapoor?

Luck has hit himself all along. Only good sense has avoided him.

MRS. S. VASUDEV (Bombay)

Your honest opinion of Dr. Katju?

A good man in wrong hands.

What sort of a lady-killer are you?

The lady lives and prospers after I kill her.

Rajaji compares the Muslim League in India to a snake that has lost its poison?

So the bile they vomited recently over the book "Living Biographies of Religious Leaders" was nectar.

PREM C. SINHA (Arrah)

We are unanimous that India is going to have no Mahatma of the calibre of Gandhiji?

What about that walkie-talkie Vinoba who is on a geographical survey of India?

V. G. SIWANKAR (Nagpur)

What is the relationship between Kamini Kaushal and Baburao Patel?

These days we don't even know each other.

T. K. PATTABHIRAM (Warangal)

When will Nargis and Nutan attain blooming youth?

Nutan is in full bloom now. Nargis has run to seed.

What is your opinion about the ever-changing French Government?

All the spice of French existence is variety. In Paris, the capital of France, variety is big business.

P. VISHWANATHA RAO (New Delhi)

Has Jai Chand Jain gone into oblivion?

How long do dinners take to pass out? Jai Chand must build his fame on something more substantial.

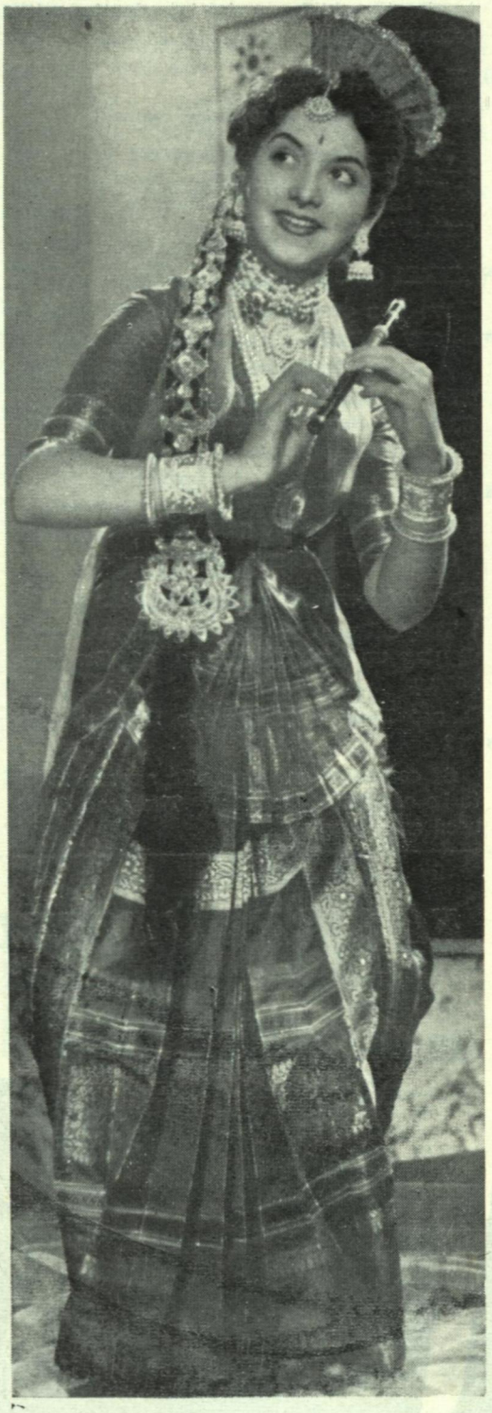
J. CHANDRA (New Delhi)

"Grey Dust" is not available even at the second-hand bookshops!

If you don't buy "Burning Words" in time, you will say the same thing again.

M. MANAVALLAN (Guntakal)

Aurangzeb, Ghazni, Allaudin Khilji and Tughluk. Can these luminaries be claimed as "Bharat Ke Sapoot"?



Whoever answers that flute answers a summons of death. A young siren is perhaps the most dangerous person to be let loose in the green public park of young men. But motion picture producers don't care who dies as long as they live. Chitra brings new thrill to the screen in "Bansaribala", a thrilling romance.

With Maulana Azad as our Education Minister they become Bharat's ancestors.

V. L. NARAYANA (Howrah)

If J. C. Jain is sacked by Dalmia one fine morning?

Dalmia can't sack Jain now. The boot is on the other foot.

K. M. RAO (Calcutta)

What is the difference between the domestic affairs of Raj Kapoor and Shantaram?

Not much! Both the homes are not exactly box-office hits.

Can V. Krishna Menon swim?

When he tried that in the Suez Canal he struck ground.

I WON'T ALLOW THE SUEZ TO BE CLOSED
DARLING KRISHNA, YOU ARE NOT IN THE CANAL. YOU ARE IN YOUR BATH TUB
SUEZ
CANAL
INDIANS HAVE GOOD IMAGINATION. NEHRU ALSO SWIMS IN HIS OWN CANAL

P. V. R. SYAMALARAO (Bhojudih)

The Bombay High Court has decreed that kissing in public is not obscene. What is your comment?

I am a law-abiding citizen.

G. V. RAMA RAO (Eluru)

I want to be a personal secretary to a minister of an important portfolio?

How many good-looking society women can you influence to err?

MAHARAJ KRISHAN (Ambala)

I am eagerly waiting for your article on Paris under your "See The World Before You Leave It" series!

The article on Paris appeared in the October 1954 issue of 'filmindia'.

S. N. UPADHYA (Kharagpur)

God is omnipresent. What are you, Babs?

I am only well-circulated.

Name of the shortest minister Nehru had?

Lal Bahadur Shastri! But he put others to shame in stature.

Nutan is chasing me!

Good you told me. I'll inform her mother and stop the girl from putting you out of breath. She should do better than an Upadhya in a railway workshop.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY

1st Prize to T. C. Thaker (Ahmedabad); 2nd Prize to Narendra Singh (Allahabad); 3rd Prize to K. A. Krishnan (Madras); 4th Prize to S. N. Upadhya (Kharagpur) and 10 Consolation Prizes to the following:—Nirmala Saxena (New Delhi); M. G. Sriraman (Secunderabad); R. Govindarajulu (Madras); B. Prabhakar Kamath (Manipal); Mrs. Ranjana Pimprikar (Amravati); P. Pandarinath (Hyderabad); Amar S. Rathor (Simla); Kamlesh K. Saxena (Agra); D. Sathyaraj (Guntakal) and Mrs. Bimla Rana (Kanpur). Money orders are being sent to all the prize winners.

Have you seen a fly without wings?

The Congressmen round Nehru don't have wings. They have to be lifted and installed like Ganapatis.

How do you like the stories of Mukhram Sharma?

He writes stories which I read thirty years ago.

Your suggestion, except begging, to fill the bellies of young refugee girls?

The traditional Indian way to fill their bellies is to marry them.

Is Buddha an "Avatar"?

The Hindus say that Buddha was a reincarnation of Lord Vishnu. Dr. Ambedkar denied this and has gone to get direct proofs from the other world.

I DIDN'T KNOW, OH LORD, THAT VISHNU AND BUDDHA ARE ONE
AND BHIMRAO, YOU CAN'T GO BACK NOW. THOSE ARE ONE-WAY WINGS. YOU COULD HAVE DIALLED FAITH AND SPOKEN TO ME INSTEAD OF COMING ALL THE WAY

P. S. SODHI (Amla)

Do you like the way the Madrasis wear their dhoties?

So long as they don't look like Adam, why bother?

K. A. K. AYYANGAR (Madras)

I want to learn to tell lies and make money. Who shall be a good teacher?

Join the local Congress House.

A monkey gets whisky to drink, cigars to smoke and a lakh of rupees!

When a monkey apes a man the monkey becomes a star. When a man apes a monkey the man becomes a star too. A strange world, isn't it? You must do something it doesn't expect.

JAKIR A. KAKA (Bombay)

The mental revolt which a copy of 'filmindia' causes is worth Rs. 3.

But the gains of the revolt must be stabilized by forming the habit of methodical and creative thinking.

G. SUBBA RAO (Madras)

My wife frowns when I read "filmindia"?

Frowning makes a woman look older than her age. Give your wife a mirror and let her look at herself every time she frowns.

PROF. C. K. GUHA (Patna)

If Nehru resigns from Prime Ministership?

And deprive the people of a state funeral? No, sir, a noble Nehru cannot let down our people who have so loyally applauded even his nonsense for so many years.

MRS. V. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Why do you say that you are not so important?

Should truth always need an apology?

Is Red Karanjia a man of the street like you?

A man who entertains the Governor at his home must be an aristocrat.

Has Dr. Radhakrishnan got into the Sadhu business?

Give him time. His wife has just died and he has yet to become the President.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Is Ramnath Goenka a journalist?

Yes, he writes the account books of the Express Group of newspapers.

Why are you so crazy about Nutan?

I am in love with her.

Why does Nehru scrupulously avoid Sardar Patel's name?

Isn't that one way of remembering a man constantly? Nehru can't share his halo even with the dead.

Is there anyone in India who has not yet heard of Nehru?

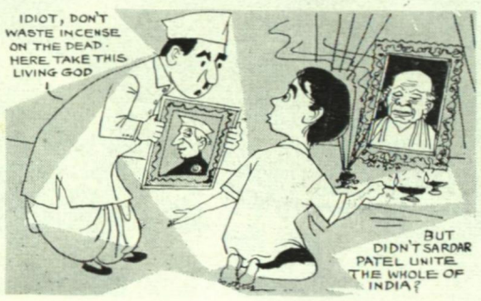
A people so completely taxed must know of Nehru and his Five-Year Plans.

Which is the hardest job Nehru has to do?

Keep selling Krishna Menon to the Congressmen.

Does Dhebarbhai know the difference between Sardar Patel and Nehru?

All Congressmen know the difference between a forgotten corpse and a living. kicking cell.



SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Which is the best place for abusing you?

Try R.K. Studios! You might become popular and get the hero's role in a picture.

Does Dr. Katju grow with years?

No, but his deafness does and that is what is badly needed in Congress ministers.

MRS. BIMLA RANA (Kanpur)

Too many second-rate men cropped up in recent years?

Democracy always brings the scum on the surface. Do you expect the illiterate masses to elect intellectuals?

Why is true and good sex-appeal considered as vulgar in Indian films?

You mustn't forget that our Censoring Minister, Keskar, is still a bachelor. You cannot torture him beyond endurance.

STOP IT, STOP IT! I CAN'T READ IT!
BUT, SIR, THAT IS ONLY A CALENDAR!
I THOUGHT HER PARTS WERE GOING TO MOVE! GANU. I CAN STAND A NUDE CALENDAR. I HAVE SEEN A WHOLE COLONY OF NUDISTS

Rs. 300/- EVERY MONTH IN 14 PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: Rs. 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of Rs. 10|- each.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order.

Cut the coupons below and fix them to your questions if you want to be answered quickly.

1 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE JANUARY 1957

2 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE JANUARY 1957

3 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE JANUARY 1957

San Jose is the small but colourful capital of Costa Rica—a tropical country which contains warmth not only in its atmosphere but also in the blood of its hospitable and hard-working people. The country grows cacao, coffee and bananas and attractive maidens like the one seen here.

SAN JOSÉ

a city of volcanoes

A JOKE goes that a foreigner once asked a Costa Rican if San Jose wasn't his country's capital. The Costa Rican replied "Yes, but we pronounce it as San Hoze". Whereupon the cautious foreigner further inquired, "Well, how is your country for a visit during Hune and Huly?".

The joke ends without answering the inquiry, but the fact is that June and July are not the ideal months for visiting Costa Rica, a tropical country with two seasons, the dry and the rainy, the rainy season lasting from May to November, and in some parts of the country for as many as 300 days.

Costa Rica, the second smallest of the Central American States, is a little link in a little chain that binds the North American Continent to South America. Bounded on the north by Nicaragua, on the east by the Carribbean Sea, on the south-east and south by Panama, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean, Costa Rica comprises an area of about 23,000 square miles and contains a population of about 1,000,000 hot-blooded people whose looks the Americans don't usually like.

In its size and population thus Costa Rica is no noteworthy

Coffee is Costa Rica's leading export product, and it is grown almost throughout the country, with the uplands of San Jose, Cartago, Alajuela and Heredia, being the principal producing regions. The picture shows the coffee berries in the process of sun-drying.

country. With its industrial development being practically zero, the country does not warrant much attention even economically. And yet it is one of the most interesting countries in Latin America. It is a country which, in spite of being located in a part of the globe where revolutions and coup d'etats occur with the frequency and normality of a spell of bad weather, has developed a comparatively stable political life and is seriously engaged in working out democracy. It is the country which boasts one of the lowest percentage of illiteracy—about 15 per cent—in Latin America. And the Costa Ricans claim a long tradition of having "more teachers than soldiers, more school-houses than barracks".

It is also the country whose Constitution outlaws the institution of a national army and prescribes only a police force for the maintenance of law and order, the organization of a military force being permitted only by continental convention or for national defence. And it is also the country which has developed a painless version of bullfighting and which probably is the only Central American country to have a society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Like half of the Indian subcontinent, Costa Rica lies entirely within the torrid zone and there are many interesting points of similarity between the two countries. Costa Rica grows the familiar tropical fruits like mangoes, pineapples and papayas. And banana is not only Costa Rica's most extensively grown and popular fruit but a cash crop. Costa Ricans eat bananas as fruit, they eat them as vegetable, and they send them abroad as one of the three major items of Costa Rica's exports. Costa Ricans are also fond of hot chillies and fresh coconut milk. Their fauna includes pumas, monkeys and snakes. And like the omnipresent bullock-cart of India, the oxcart is virtually a national emblem of Costa Rica.

COLUMBUS AGAIN

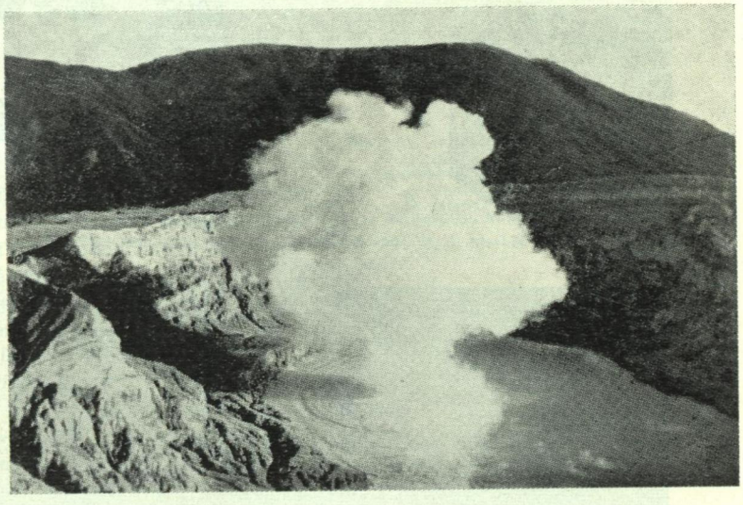
Costa Rica was discovered by Columbus in 1502 on his fourth and last voyage to the New World and, it is said, it was the sight of the yellow metal on the land that prompted the Spaniards to exclaim "rich coast!" Further exploration of the land, however, yielded no rich mines of gold and the Spaniards were disappointed but not enough to return home and leave the land alone with its native tribes and peaceful ways.

Determined to colonise the area the Spaniards started making settlements but it is only in 1564, the year the first permanent city, Cartago, was founded, that the colonial history of Costa Rica really begins. By this time the native tribes of Costa Rica, mistakenly labelled Indians by Columbus, were considerably reduced in number by Spanish 'conquistadores' and for the next two and a half centuries Spain ruled over Costa Rica with all the ruthlessness of a colonial power. The Spaniards corralled the subdued native tribes into miserable clusters of clay and crude brick houses called pueblos and under the "encomienda" system, another name for slavery, made them toil and till the land for the benefit of the colonists giving them in return just enough necessities of life to keep life and soul together.

During the colonial days, Costa Rica along with other Central American areas was administered from Guatemala City which was the seat of the Captaincy-General, the central administrative body, and of the "Audiencia", the judicial body. Local control was exercised by a governor stationed in Cartago. Apart from suffering at the hands of the Spanish rulers, who did not allow it to trade with its neighbour colonies or with any other nation except Spain, Costa Rica suffered long and heavily by the raids of the Mosquito Indians of Nicaragua on one coast and by those of the Dutch and English pirates on the other. And around the beginning of the 18th century how hard and miserable life had become for Costa Ricans can be imagined from the fact that at one stage the governor at Cartago had to authorize the use of cocoa beans for money.

Costa Rica finally gained its independence from Spain in 1821 when the independence of the Central American States was declared at Guatemala City, followed by the ousting of the Spanish governor Juan Manuel Canas in Costa Rica. From 1822 to 1823, however, Costa Rica was annexed to the Mexican empire under Augustine Iturbide. On the collapse of the empire, Costa Rica formed part of the federation of the five Central American States. Not happy with the federation, Costa Rica withdrew from it in 1838, establishing itself as a republic by 1848. The following century also did not bring much peace to Costa Rica and the country was involved in numerous boundary disputes with Nicaragua and Panama. Internally, however, its political life was much less chaotic than generally found in Latin America. After a civil war in 1948, in which the government was overthrown by a junta, the country achieved comparative political stability, went to the polls, signed a pact of friendship with Nicaragua in early 1949, and in November of the same year adopted a new Constitution which provides for a unitary democratic government with legislative power vested in a unicameral legislature, the Legislative Assembly, composed of 45 deputies elected directly by the people. The 1949 Constitution prescribes universal suffrage for Costa Rica and outlaws a national army. The job of its territorial defence and of solving its disputes with neighbouring states has now been entrusted to the Organization of American States, an association of 21 American republics. And

A view of the crater of the Poas Volcano, said to be the largest crater in the world with a mile long diameter. Situated at a height of 9000 feet, the volcano is 28 miles from San Jose and a spot worth visiting.



now Costa Rica has all the time and opportunity to devote its attention and efforts to the welfare of its people.

JUST 94000

Costa Rica is divided into seven provinces including San Jose. San Jose, the capital of the country and the largest city, is situated in the centre of the country on a fertile tableland at an altitude of 3816 feet. Having an annual mean temperature of 68°F, San Jose is the focal point of Costa Rica's commercial, cultural and political life. The city was founded in 1755 but it became the capital in 1823 taking that title away from Cartago, the first capital.

Containing a population of about 94,000, San Jose wears a rather cosmopolitan look which is emphasized by its varied and contrasting architecture. The city has clean, wide, asphalted roads flanked by spacious, blooming parks. There are numerous modern buildings as well as ancient ones, a host of hotels and restaurants and places of interest for the tourist.

The principal thoroughfare is the Avenida Central which after passing through the commercial centre of the city becomes Paseo Colon, so named in honour of Christopher Columbus. The Paseo Colon connects the city with La Sabara, the National Airport, and the National Stadium where thousands gather every Sunday morning to excitedly witness soccer matches. The National Airport is conveniently located from the centre of the city and housed in a handsome building. Recently another airport, called El Coco has been put into operation. It is 14 miles from San Jose, near the city of Alajuela, and is designed to be the largest airport in Central America.

The capital is virtually strewn with parks for the pleasure of the inhabitants of San Jose or Josefinos as they are called. Most of them are worth visiting by the tourist. Among them is the Bolivar Park, on the outskirts of the city, which contains a small collection of the native fauna inhabiting the Costa Rican jungle, and constitutes a miniature forest and zoological garden.

The Central Park, no less interesting with its mosaic pavements, cement benches and colourful crowds, is a specially popular attraction because of the "retreta", an old Spanish custom in which girls walk arm-in-arm in one direction while young men walk in the opposite direction. It is a scene which is staged thrice a week. Besides, a military band gives concerts from a pavilion every Wednesday and Thursday in the park, while the National Lottery, in aid of the country's hospitals, is held there every alternate Sunday.

The Morazan Park comprises four large gardens which meet at the Temple of Music, a circular bandstand designed on exactly the same lines as the Petit Trianon in France. Every Monday and Friday, sweet strains are wafted into the air from the Temple. Other interesting parks in San Jose are the National Park, in the eastern section of the city, and the Espana Park.

Colonial Spanish, Renaissance, and modern American styles of architecture are present together in the city of San Jose. The city therefore looks quaint with both modern structures and ancient landmarks. In the picture is seen a busy street in San Jose.

Among the interesting churches in the city are La Merced Church, El Carmen, La Soledad, La Dolores, Anglican Church, which was founded in 1864, and the Temple Biblico. Though predominantly a Roman Catholic country, Costa Rica enjoys religious freedom and most of the Protestant churches are represented there.

THE TWO VOLCANOES

The National Theatre is an exceedingly interesting item in San Jose. Costa Ricans call it the Million Dollar Theatre for it is tastefully designed and contains carrara marble stairways and balconies, beautiful ceiling and wall paintings done by European artists, some fine sculpture and gorgeous mirrored salon. During concerts and plays, it attracts the elite of the town. Another theatre of note is the Raventos, one of the largest and most modern in Central America.

Then there is the National Palace located on Avenida Central, where the Legislative Assembly meets. The National Museum, besides acquainting one with the flora and fauna of Costa Rica, contains some rare pottery and Indian relics which give a glimpse of Costa Rica's early history. The National Library of Costa Rica is another place worth a visit. It contains over 100,000 volumes on its shelves. The Government holds monopoly over liquor production except beer, and its National Liquor Factory, which claims to produce liquor equal to any of those of Europe, is worth a visit. Some of the popular brands are 'Crema de Nance' and Cocori Rum.

There is much interesting scenery in San Jose's surrounding countryside, but the two most important spots outside the city, which constitute a 'must' on the tourist's list are the two volcanoes, Irazu and Poas. At an altitude of 11,322 feet, Irazu can be reached only in one and a half hour from San Jose. One of the few active volcanoes which can be viewed from a close range it provides an awe-inspiring spectacle with its bottomless chasm filled with molten lava and boiling sulphur. And from the Irazu one can see both the oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific, at the same time "something that even Balboa (in Panama) never saw" as the Costa Ricans boastfully say.

Poas is 28 miles from San Jose and is 9000 feet high. Now almost dead, the Poas claims to have the world's largest crater, which is over a mile in diameter. There is thus enough to see, observe, and be thrilled at without of course, counting the warm and pretty Costa Rican belles in picturesque costumes, in this interesting little capital of the little Central American republic which is trying to make a successful experiment with democracy with its poor economy based mainly on the export of coffee, bananas and cacao.

Let us wish it well.

The oxcart is virtually the national emblem of Costa Rica whose peasantry has made an art of painting the oxcart's wheels in gay colours and skilful patterns.

This one is seeing some Bhagwandas drowning. It takes nothing less than a deliberate suicide to move certain women to action. Purnima is a deep and dull customer but Producer Arora makes her scream in his next one. Does he pinch her bottom?

PROTECTING THE YOUNG

New Delhi, November 23.

The Lok Sabha passed unanimously on November 22, 1956, the Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Bill, which seeks to prohibit the production in India of what are known as "horror comics" with a view to protecting the youth of the country from vulgarity, crime, sadism, violence, morbidity and the like.

The Bill was moved by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant and all members were agreed about the harm "horror comics" were causing to young children. Dr. Rama Rao, a Communist member, suggested that Pandit Nehru should devote some time to writing books for children.

It was Pandit Nehru who openly frowned at "horror comics" during the Film Seminar in February 1955. We must thank Rajiv and Sanjiv, the two little grandsons of Nehru for this Bill. It was the fear of affecting their character that resulted in providing protection to the children of the commoners.

COMEDY OF BED

London, December 1.

Oona O' Neill, the 31-year-old wife of Producer-director-actor Charlie Chaplin, is expecting her sixth child in May 1957.

67-year-old Charlie Chaplin who is now making his new film "King of New York", talking about his impending fatherhood is reported to have blushed and said, "I am ashamed of myself". He has been married for thirteen years to Oona and they have 5 children already.

Oona's youth seems to be tickling the old guy who evidently does not believe in family planning.

AH! FOR NUDISM!

London, November 15.

The world's first "commercial" serious nudist film made by Walter Bibo, an American, is being shown in British cinemas shortly. With an attractive title "Garden of Eden", the film propounds the philosophy and practice of sunbathing and naturism through a human story. It was made at a nudist colony in Florida and is in colour.

The London County Council has granted "Garden of Eden" a U certificate while Middlesex has given it an 'X' certificate prohibiting persons under 16 from seeing it. Surrey has refused to certify the film.

Let us hope Balu Keskar, our pretentious puritan who is reported to have been once in a nudist camp in France, allows this picture to be exhibited in India. It will bring some colour to our dry and drab lives.

FILM AND CRIME

Bombay, November 21.

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, has undertaken a study titled, "The Cinema And The Public" at the instance of the Central Board of Film Censors. The team of investigators is headed by Dr. S. N. Punekar.

The study-group will make a house-to-house research extending to schools, colleges, factories, etc., to ascertain the effect of films on Indian audiences.

This is the first time that an audience reaction survey of films has been taken up in India. Let us hope it yields some useful information and eventually leads to the banning of anti-social films.

The first people who should be examined will however, be found only in jails. And let us hope the investigators go there.

DEATH OF MURDERER

Los Angeles, November 19.

Veteran stage-and-screen star Paul Kelly died of a heart attack in Los Angeles at the age of 57.

In 1907 Paul made his debut on the Broadway stage and in 1918 was cast in "Penrod" opposite Helen Hayes. He was the top Broadway actor during 1947-48 in "Command Decision". Apart from stage acting he worked in about 400 films, one of them being "The Country Girl".

An interesting incident in Paul's life was that he served a jail sentence in 1926 for 25 months for manslaughter, when he punched Ray Raymond, a musical-comedy actor of the twenties resulting in his death. The point of quarrel was Ray's wife, actress Dorothy Mackaye, whom Paul eventually married in 1931.

POISONING CHILDREN

Rajkot, November 21.

Speaking at the film festival organized by the Saurashtra Child Welfare Board to celebrate the "Children's Week" in Rajkot, M. Bodiansky, of the cultural division of the Soviet embassy in India, said that Russian children's films would be made available to India in sufficient numbers to promote exchange of goodwill between the two nations.

The Russians seem to be anxious to start indoctrination at the toddling stage. What is our Children's Film Society under the presidentship of Dr. H. N. Kunzru doing?

SECOND ERROR

Teheran, November 18.

Popular actress Jessie Royce Landis, 51, married Major General John Francis Regis Seitz, 48, in Teheran. For both it was a second trial.

Jessie, who worked in the play "Kiss And Tell" on Broad-

Morning after the night—after a good feed—the cats come out to bask in the sun and see how the world is going on. These well-fed ones are Kumud, Kamal, Sabita and Usha and you meet them all in "Parivar", a domestic drama of Bimal Roy Productions.

way, was recently seen in Hollywood's "To Catch A Thief" and "The Swan". Jessie must surely be knowing the right kiss from the wrong one after "Kiss And Tell". The Major evidently delivered the right one.

NO NEW BRIDGES

New Delhi, November 16.

On Thursday, November 16, 1956, India's first cinema on rails was inaugurated on the Eastern Railway between Howrah and Delhi. The cinema car operates for a distance of 400 miles and exhibits 4 shows on the run each way. Sixty passengers are admitted every time at a nominal fee of two annas per passenger. When the films are not being shown, the coach is used as a buffet car to sell tea, coffee, snacks, etc., at reasonable prices.

Though the Railway Ministry is proud of its few amenities, the deplorable and almost criminal way in which railway tracks and bridges are being neglected causing one rail disaster after another, the Ariyalur tragedy being a fresh wound in our minds, one wonders whether it is at all worthwhile travelling by train these days, to see a few Government-produced documentaries.

DISPLAYING HIS FACE

New Delhi, November 27.

Dr. B. V. Keskar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said in the Lok Sabha, that the work of the Bombay television station would commence in 1957-58. The provision for this station was to be made in the next financial year.

A suitable site in Bombay was being selected while equipment for the purpose of experimental investigation had been purchased in Delhi.

Balu's obstinacy in the matter of television is admirable. He is determined to be the first prize television star, even if the country has millions of starving stomachs.

CLOSING DOWN

London, November 27.

Ten more cinemas of the J. Arthur Rank Organization are likely to close down. This is the third batch of closures since September '56, bringing the total to 48 cinemas in the case of Rank's alone.

The British film industry seems to be down on its knees.

HOPE'S HOPE

Hollywood, December 1.

Hope Lange, wife of actor Don Murray, is expecting her first from the stork.

Don Murray, a struggling actor till today, has hit the headlines since he played Marilyn Monroe's leading man in "Bus Stop".

VICTOR IN DEATH

Hollywood, November 25.

Music-composer Victor Young, 56, died of a heart attack in Palm Springs, California.

Young composed music for over 300 films, his recent ones being "Shane", "The Quiet Man" and Michael Todd's lavish production, "Around The World In 80 Days". His song hits include "Sweet Sue" and "Ghost Of A Chance".

THEIR LITTLE BIT

Calcutta, November 30.

The call given by the Bengal Motion Picture Association to help the Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund to the different cinemas in the State of West Bengal is reported to have brought a warm response from the exhibition trade. The money from the weekly shows on Sunday mornings is contributed towards the fund. These shows, luckily, are tax-free.

Though actual figures are not yet available, it is estimated that the collections have already passed the Rs. 50,000-mark. By the time the month ends, the figure may reach the lakh mark.

Let us hope the money is used for a good purpose.

MICHAEL I TO MICHAEL II

Hollywood, December 1.

Pretty, dark-haired actress Elizabeth Taylor announced that she would marry rich producer-director Michael Todd as soon as her divorce from her present husband Michael Wilding became final. A new decision made by Elizabeth is that she will retire from the screen after her marriage.

Liz perhaps wants to give a fair trial to her new marriage. A wise girl! Anyway, from one Michael to another is not a change in name at least.

PRESSURE GROUP

Bombay, November 15.

Choosing an auspicious day, November 14, Pandit Nehru's birthday, theatre employees of Bombay held their 10th Annual General Meeting of the Theatre Employees Union at People's Hall, Congress House, Bombay.

In his annual report, Mr. Sultan Noorani revealed that the membership of the Union was 540 in "A" class theatres and 791 in "B" class theatres. Out of a total of 56 theatres in Bombay proper, workmen of 43 were represented in the Union while out of 70 theatres in Greater Bombay, workmen from 47 were members of the Union.

Conditions of the employees were better than before because they were given sick leave, dearness allowance, provident fund, etc. The Union invested Rs. 11,300 in Government securities and would soon invest another Rs. 5,000. The Union settled 45 disputes with different employers during the last two years.

Mohammed Taher was unanimously elected the president of the Union for the coming year. Other office-bearers are R. C. Dalal, J. H. Bharucha, Sultan Noorani, D. M. Tulpule, N. A. Qureishi and C. M. Tijoriwalla.

CHEAP FLESH

London, November 26.

Sexy Marilyn Monroe, the calendar girl, continues to excite her admirers all over the world and yet a surrealist nude painting of this much publicized blonde went begging at the London's Central School of Speech and Drama Art Auction. Finally the painting went to the absent bidder, playwright Terence Rattigan for £40.

Terence has written the screenplay of Marilyn's new film "The Sleeping Prince". We like Terence's loyalty towards his star.

ENCOURAGING DRAMA

Bombay, December 3.

The Government of Bombay has set apart a sum of Rs. 2.16 lakhs for encouragement to dramatic art during the year 1956-57. The scheme covers only the Marathi and Gujarati districts of the former Bombay State.

The amount is distributed as follows: prizes for written dramas (Rs. 13,250); Natya mahotsava for amateurs (Rs. 68,200); Natya mahotsava in educational institutions (Rs. 25,000); construction of open air theatres (Rs. 64,725); assistance to actors, dramatists, etc. in financial trouble (Rs. 10,000); prizes for tamashas (Rs. 12,000); training school teachers in organizing dramas (Rs. 8,000); grants to music, dance and drama schools (Rs. 10,000); and grants to the First World Theatre Conference (Rs. 5,000) approximately.

The items are increasing fast but the total amount of Rs. 2.16 lakhs can hardly be called attractive. After all, the Government earns plenty of revenue every year in entertainment tax, not to mention other taxes. So more money should be ploughed back into dramatic art.

TO ANOTHER STAGE

New York, November 26.

Floyd Buckley, the 82-year-old Broadway actor, died in New York of an aortic aneurism. Known to be the oldest performing actor on the Broadway stage, Floyd had become almost a legend. His most popular role was in "No Time For Sergeants", a role which he played 445 times with zest and vigour.

WRONGLY NAMED

Lahore, November 20.

The Government of West Pakistan banned the film "Gentlemen Marry Brunettes" in the whole of the province.

The Pakistanis probably consider brunettes to be un-Islamic. Which means that blonde Marilyn Monroes have a better chance in Pakistan.

If the title had been, "Gentlemen Rape Brunettes", the film would have, probably, escaped a ban—raping being a national pastime.

JEALOUSY DID IT

London, November 22.

British blonde actress, Diana Dors, returned to London minus her wedding ring and fourteen pounds less flesh on her shapely body. In an interview with newspaper columnists, Diana attributed the rift with her husband Dennis Hamilton to a variety of causes. One was that Dennis treated her "more as a business than as a wife".

Diana emphatically denied once more her alleged affair with actor Rod Steiger. Said Diana, "All these canards about my infatuation with Rod Steiger are absurd..... I am sick of denying them". Diana revealed that Dennis would get a good portion of their property when the divorce became final, and he would continue to be her business manager unless he was "too busy running Shirley Ann Field's career".

Anyway, Dennis proved to be a good businessman. He got rid of the liability and kept the assets.

HOLLYWOOD'S STAR SALESMAN

Warsaw, November 23.

Eric Johnston concluded tentative agreements with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, on behalf of the Motion Picture Export Association of America

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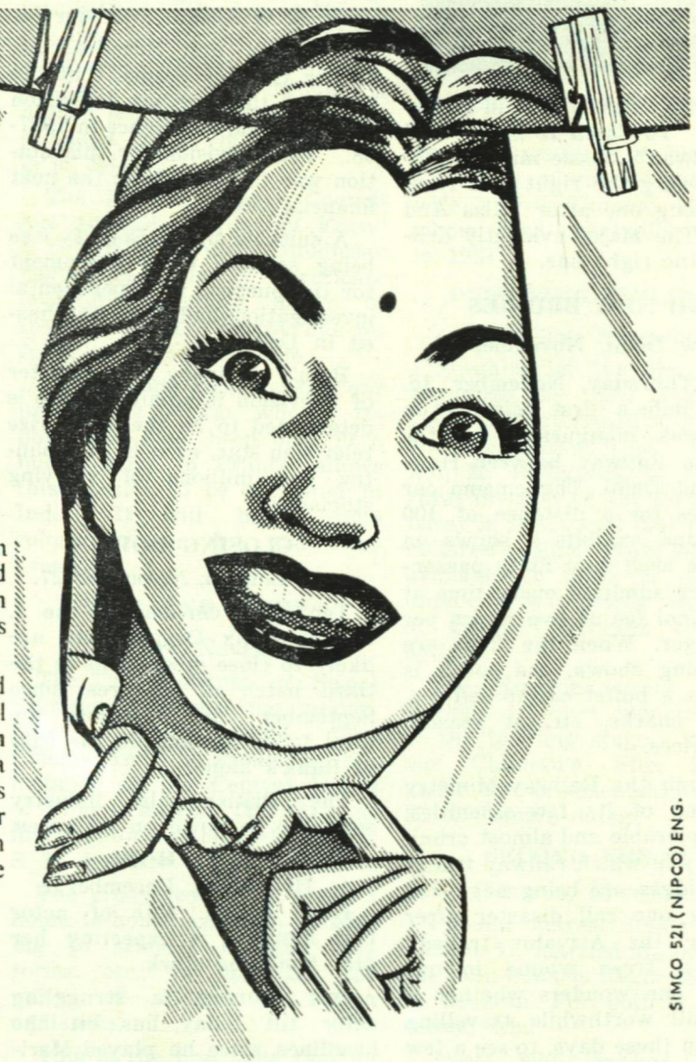

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A cock-eyed "Namaskar" too! That woman wants a man to be a mile away. She has had enough of men—worms and wolves—and she doesn't want to meet another, at least for sometime. Let us see whom Chand Usmani is avoiding in "Duniya Rang Rangeli", a social entertainer produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

for the distribution of American films in these countries. Since 1948 American films were not being shown in these countries but Eric always good at bargaining seems to have begun well.

The present agreement with Poland called for the sale of 30 films a year for the next three years. The type of films and their purchasing price will be fixed soon.

LOOKING UP

Bucharest, November 30.

Though the Rumanian film industry has been a struggling one producing few films in comparison with other Communist countries, it is slowly beginning to attract attention. At the recent International Film Festival at Karlovy Vary, the Rumanian film "Mitrea Cocor" won the Social Advancement Prize. Other outstanding productions include "The Valley Resounds", "Life Wins" and "A Letter Was Lost".

Large production stages at Buftea, near Bucharest, are being constructed to produce better films in future. There is also special accommodation being built for the staff.

The themes, however, are always charged with Communist propaganda and that is a pity.

STILL GRACE-FULL

New York, December 4.

Actress Grace Kelly, now Princess Grace, has taken up apartment at Manhattan. She has put on 26 pounds in weight in her pregnant condition and attributes the extra weight to sphagetti and noodles with which Hubby Rainier probably feeds her.

Grace is worrying about the name and is almost sure of his being a boy because, "They claim you have a boy if you carry to the front. It might be a boy. He kicks hard".

Let's hope Grace is proved right.

KING OF SPADES

New York, November 12.

Popular Negro singer Nat King Cole who has now begun his own NBC-TV show has reasons to be proud of his success. His records continue to sell like hot cakes, the recent one being "Night Lights" which has already reached the 200,000 mark.

And yet singer Cole is not too happy and says, "I'd give it all up if only I could be a good baseball player".

Nat King Cole seems to be having the Yankee madness for baseball.

BUSINESS BAN

London, November 26.

The Children's Cinema Council, Hampstead, England, has banned the little cartoon character "Mr. Magoo" as "not suitable for children". According to Mrs. Jessamine Weeks, Vice Chairman of the Council, Magoo "is a hideous character" and "too sophisticated".

The Council has also banned Donald Duck, Mighty Mouse, Flash Gordon and Tweety-Pie, the canary.

It seems to be a quiet move to encourage domestic cartoon features.

JAYASHREE DIVORCED

Bombay, December 15.

Shri L. P. Pendse, Judge, Bombay City Civil Court, today, decreed the suit filed by Jayashree, a film actress, seeking divorce from her husband, Shri V. Shantaram, a film producer, under Section 13(2) (1) of the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955.

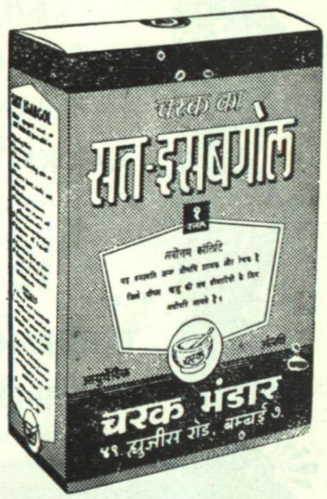
Jayashree was the second wife of Shri Shantaram and she was married to Shri Shantaram in 1941, while Shri Shantaram's first wife Vimlabai was alive, and who is living still. Vimlabai was the co-respondent in the suit.

Shri Shantaram contended that Section 13(2) (1) being discriminatory in character as it conferred on the woman alone the right to seek divorce was 'ultra vires' Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. Further, the right given to a Hindu wife (where a husband had two wives) by Section 13(2) (1) was not an absolute right, as Jayashree married him with the full knowledge of the existence of the first wife Vimlabai. He therefore urged that Jayashree was precluded from claiming to have the marriage with him dissolved under Section 13(2) (1).

The judge held that Section 13(2) (1) was not 'ultra vires' the Constitution. He said that as there was no case of a Hindu woman having two lawful husbands alive, it could not be said that the legislature had discriminated between males and females by permitting only the females to apply for the dissolution of marriage.

The Judge therefore granted

CHARAK'S SAT-ISABGOL



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the decree for divorce as prayed for by Jayashree. The Judge also ordered an interim alimony to be paid to her of Rs. 750 per month, while the custody of the children was to be made over to Shri Shantaram.

Being aggrieved by the order passed in regard to alimony and custody of children, Jayashree preferred an appeal to the High Court. The Chief Justice and Shri Justice Gajendragadkar admitted the appeal and granted interim stay of the order of the lower court as regards custody and alimony.

PROPHET ABROAD

Paris, November 28.

One of the most popular and best paid entertainers in France today is 38-year-old Californian-born Eddie Constantine.

He has worked in 15 successful French films. His records sell well and he sings at the Olympia Music Hall.

His first film was "Les Contes Du Caire" though his first big part was given by Bernard Borderie in "Poison Ivy Kid".

And yet in 1947 Eddie Constantine could not make headway in Hollywood and was actually rejected by some as a singer. Today his "Constantineisms" are the rage of jazz and rock 'n' roll fans. Eddie's luck has improved with the years while his talent has been the same. It required a Frenchman to spot it.

CLEVER DE MILLE

New York, November 20.

Producer Cecil B. De Mille, the spectacle king of Hollywood films, believes in doing things the spectacular way. Knowing the usual criticism that the church and the clergy make against biblical pictures, he announced in New York that he would utilize all his profits from his new mammoth film "The Ten Commandments" to form a special trust fund for "charitable, religious and educational purposes".

Waxing eloquent before a civic luncheon audience, De Mille said, "The struggle between the forces represented by Pharaoh is still being waged today..... We may never have bent the knee before the graven image of Hathor but there is also a graven image in a dollar bill.... I come here and ask you to use this picture, as I hope and pray that God himself will use it, for the good of the world".

But before doing good to the world, the movie will certainly bring huge profits for De Mille and benefit its maker.

ONE STEP UP

New York, November 19.

Mattiwilda Dobbs, the 31year-old Negro soprano, created a sensation at the Metropolitan Opera House when she recently made her debut as Gilda in "Rigoletto".

For Negroes of America it was one stride forward in the integration march because she is the first Negress to sing a romantic lead at the Metropolitan.

The first Negro woman who was featured at the Metropolitan was ballerina Janet Collins six years ago. Contralto Marian Anderson, a big name today, came on the Metropolitan stage two years ago in the role of the Negro Ulrica in Verdi's 'Un Ballo in Maschera'.

FILMS AND FILMS

Raipur, December 1.

Shrimati Vimlabai Deshmukh, a member of the Central Advisory Committee for Small Savings Scheme for women, said that there was a plan under consideration to produce films and propaganda literature in Hindi to make the small saving drive in rural areas more effective.

But the poor people of rural areas have not enough earnings, let alone savings. Anyway it gives women social workers an opportunity to do some "work",

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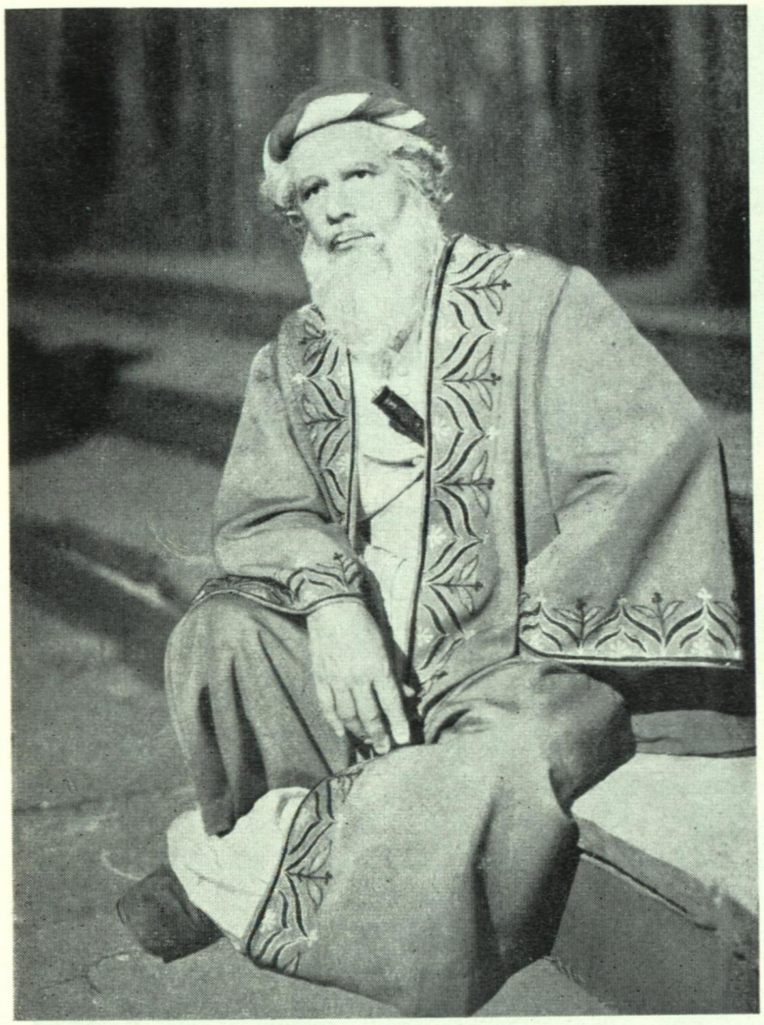

The old man is worried. His grey beard cannot stop the maidenly locks of his young daughter from flying in the air Sohrab Modi brings new dynamism to the screen in "Yahudi-ki-Ladki", produced by Savak Vacha.

SABAN-SHARIFA PRIVATE LTD.

Bombay, December 5.

Sharifa, the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Fazalbhoy, was married to Sabanali, son of the late Mr. H. J. Merchant and Mrs. Merchant, on December 4, 1956, at the Royal Western India Turf Club, Bombay.

The lawns of the R.W.I.T.C. were gaily decorated and beautifully lit and over 3000 socialites of Bombay were present to bless the bride and bridegroom in person. Not in recent memory was a wedding so well-attended as this one, the bride's parents being popular social figures themselves.

Mrs. Fazalbhoy, a loving, affectionate mother, shed the traditional Indian tears while giving away the bride. The bride returned her affection with an equal number of tears. The way both wept one wondered why young people get married at all. We wish Sharifa and Sabanali all happiness in their married life. May Allah sprinkle flowers in their path!

260 LBS BURIED

New York, November 20.

London-born actor Francis Loftus Sullivan, 53, died in New York on November 19 after a lung ailment.

Sullivan's roles were many and varied, having worked in more than 80 films. His important roles were in "Great Expectations" and "Oliver Twist" and recently he starred in "Witness For The Prosecution" on Broadway.

Sullivan's fat appearance—he weighed 260 pounds—gave him the natural look of a comedian.

SURAIYA'S STEP-FATHER

Bombay, December 6.

The police took into custody Aziz Mohammed, step-father of film actress Suraiya, Mohammed Siddiq, the driver and Suppaya, the cook, on Wednesday, December 5, on an alleged charge of suspicion and complicity in the murder of 35-year-old Gulam Nabi, believed to be a resident of Ahmedabad. The arrests were made in Suraiya's building, "Suraiya Manor" at Worli Sea Face, at about 10.15 A.M.

The body of Gulam Nabi was found lying in a pool of blood near the staircase on the ground floor of 'Suraiya Manor'. The trail of blood led the police to the second floor where the arrests were made. The body showed gash wounds, the skull was fractured and some of his ribs were broken. It was evident that the man had died a violent death.

Though the motive behind the murder is still unknown, it is said that the deceased had visited the film star's residence several times and wanted to see the star but his requests were not heeded. His last request to see the star is reported to have been made on December 5, the day of his death.

A "NOO" ONE

London, November 30.

The first International Animated Film Festival is being held at the National Film Theatre, London, from February 23 to March 8, 1957. Seventeen countries are taking part in the festival, some of them being, U.S.A., Soviet Union, Canada, Japan, China, etc.

Over 60 films representing all types of animation—puppet, cartoon, stereoscopic and experimental—will be shown. The idea for the festival came from John Halas who recently made the successful first full-length British cartoon picture, "Animal Farm".

India has yet to make an animated film, either a short one or a full-length one. Besides dumb Congressmen don't make suitable subjects for animation.

WIDER AND WIDER

New York, December 5.

A new widescreen system called the "RKO-scope" to compete with Superscope, Metroscope, etc., has been developed by R.K.O. Radio Company of Hollywood.

The system employs anamorphic principles by which extra wide scenes are "squeezed" on to standard shape film and re-extended by special projection lenses.

If you want to see how RKO-scope works, then wait for "Bundle of Joy", "I Married A Woman", and "Public Pigeon No. 1", where this technique will be employed.

NOT MATURE YET

Hollywood, November 30.

Victor Mature, the tall husky Samson of "Samson and Delilah", is expected to marry Marian Collier. After his divorce, Victor Mature had declared rather emphatically that he would never marry again. But after seeing Marian, Victor probably changed his mind. A changeable guy!

SMALL CHAMPION

Hollywood, December 3.

Gower and Marge Champion, stage and screen dancers, became parents of a little son, christened Gregg Ernest. This is their first child and naturally the Champions are overjoyed at the happy event.

Gower and Marge Champion did some delightful dance numbers in "Show Boat" and "Lovely To Look At".

MONEY FOR JAM

Hollywood, November 30.

Singer-actor Mario Lanza settled his $ 40,000 house damage suit for $ 9000.

Mario is not working with Warners any more, though he is being paid in full by them according to the contract. Mario's records bring him good money including his recent "Serenade".

SELF-PUBLICITY

Nagpur, December 5.

The Union Communications Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, inaugurated the showing of documentary films at Sonegaon airport "to relieve the tedium" of night service passengers. It is at Nagpur that planes halt for the exchange of passengers and mails. Some 150 passengers saw the show at this new airport cinema hall.

The experiment is being tried for the first time in India and might be extended to Bombay and the other cities. It looks as if the Government wants its documentaries to be seen even by sleepy passengers at all odd hours of the night.

INSTRUMENT OF TYRANNY

New Delhi, December 10.

Dr. B. V. Keskar introduced in the Rajya Sabha a Bill to provide for the Constitution of a National Film Board for the purpose of promoting the development of films as a medium of culture, education and healthy entertainment and for the regulation of exhibition by means of cinematograph.

The National Film Board was recommended by the Film Inquiry Committee. The proposed National Film Board will have three constituent units, the Film Certification Bureau, the Film Production Bureau, and the Film Institute.

By remaining indifferent to what is happening around them, the film people have played into Government's hands. Now the Government will dominate and dictate its terms to the film industry.

Dancing becomes a superfluous art when those who dance cover themselves so fully with costume and jewellery. With such an overwrapping how can we see the parts that dance? And who wants to see a costume dancing if the woman is hidden inside? That will be a bizarre entertainment. Anyway, let us see where Padmini is heading for in "Payal".

THE MELODY ENDS

Madras, December 12.

Well-known nadaswara player. Vidwan Tiruvaduthurai N. Rajaratnam Pillai, died in Madras at the age of 56 after a short illness.

Born in a family of nadaswara exponents, Rajaratnam imparted to the nadaswara a highly emotional appeal and swayed audiences with its notes for over 20 years. The nadaswara is something like the clarionet but in Rajaratnam's hands, it sounded divine.

Many titles were bestowed on him, some of them being, "Akhila Ulaka Nadaswara Eka Chhatradhipati", "Nadaswara Chakravarti" and "Nadaswara Everest". Two years ago he was honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akadami Award for instrumental music.

Rajaratnam's death is a loss to all music lovers.

NIMMI—

This great little girl is one of our most popular film stars. Her greatest art is her sincerity of purpose. She has never given a bad performance because she has always approached her work seriously. Once again Nimmi graces the screen in "Ghunghat-Ke-Pat-Khol" a social theme written and directed by Ali Raza for Nigaristan Pictures.

Youth is spring not only in the age of a woman but also in her figure. The tension of youth, in various spots of a woman's anatomy, is all the intoxication to man. Chitra is at an age where tension is all the beauty and curves all the geography. Producer-director Arora uses her well in his new picture—still unnamed.

SADIQ PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

While some use the screen for dry sermonizing, Producer-director M. Sadiq believes in utilizing it for lively entertainment, to bring a smile on the tired faces of picturegoers. Sadiq's two entertainers, "Mai Baap" and "Duniya Rang Rangeeli", show ample proof of this intention. Both the pictures are making rapid progress and are reported to have become good. "Duniya Rang Rangeeli", a picture depicting the varied facets of life, through many comic situations, stars slim, attractive Shyama, talented Chand Usmani, big-eyed Anita Guha and comedian Johnny Walker. "Mai Baap" again stars Shyama, probably because she fits comedy roles better than many other heroines.

SHRI VISHWA BHARATI FILMS (Bombay)

India is a land of music and colour and a musical theme in a motion picture rarely fails to thrill the audiences. The lives of famous musicians like Tansen, Baiju, etc., have been picturized before successfully and Vishwa Bharati added one more new chapter to musical pictures when it released its "Basant Bahar" starring petite Nimmi and Bharat Bhushan in New Delhi, Calcutta and several other towns of U.P., M.P., and Bengal on December 28. Based on a well-known Kannada novel, "Basant Bahar" is the story of a musician in the days of Tippu Sultan. Bharat Bhushan in the main role of the musician, who sighed and breathed music all his life and Nimmi as his source of inspiration, make "Basant Bahar" a thrilling experience with a couple of attractive tunes by Shanker and Jai Kishan.

AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

"Miss Mary", a rib-tickling comedy, adapted from the Tamil hit "Missiamma", is now in the final stages of production. The last shooting session of this picture has been planned by Producer A. V. Meiyappan and it looks as if the picture will be ready in a couple of months. Starring pretty Meena Kumari as the Christian school-teacher, Kishore Kumar, R. Ganesh, and supported by Jamuna, Om Prakash, Achala Sachdev and Randhir, "Miss Mary" succeeds in piling up a series of laughs with its unpredictable situations. "Miss Mary" is enlivened with crisp music by Hemant Kumar. The children's film "Hum Panchhi Ek Dalke", starring youngsters—Master Romi, Satish Vyas, Roop Kumar, Mohan Choti, Jagdeep and oldsters—David, Achala,

Murad, Maruti, Niranjan Sharma and others, is almost nearing completion. Direction is by Santoshi who hopes to make this picture a hit while music is by N. Datta.

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

As Producer-director Mehboob's colossal Gevacolour "Mother India" goes on adding one exciting sequence after another, the pitch of filmgoers' anxiety to witness this beautiful spectacle keeps on rising. Mehboob, acutely conscious of his fans' confidence in him to produce the year's best picture, has left no stone unturned to make "Mother India" a glorious saga of Indian peasant life. Nargis, a competent artiste in most roles, rises to great histrionic heights in the main role under Mehboob's excellent direction. Others in the impressive cast are Raj Kumar, child star Sajjad, Sunil Dutt, Rajendra Kumar, Chanchal, etc., Music-director Naushad is reported to be at his best in "Mother India".

BIMAL ROY PRODCTIONS (Bombay)

"Parivar", produced by Bimal Roy and directed by Asit Sen, had a crowded premiere in Bombay's three cinemas—Swastik, Jai Hind and Rivoli—on Friday, December 28, and judging from the public reaction, the picture seems to be having plenty of mass appeal. "Parivar" is the story of five brothers living together in one home, played by Bipin Gupta, Jairaj, Anwar, Sajjan and Ashim Kumar, who imagine that they are mainly responsible for the domestic bliss till their five respective wives played by Durga Khote, Usha Kiran, Kumud, Kamal and Sabita Chatterjee take it into their heads to prove the truth. The conspiracy of the wives leads to an interesting climax and at the same time entertains the audience. The musical score by Salil Chaudhary is quite pleasing.

GEMINI STUDIOS (Madras)

Producer-director S. S. Vasan is giving the finishing touches to his new social now well on way to completion. Starring Jagirdar and some South Indian artistes, the picture is likely to come to the screen sometime in March 1957. Vasan has quite an ambitious programme for 1957, one of which is likely to star Dilip Kumar.

SHRIRANGAM (Bombay)

"Dekh Kabira Roya", a sentimental tale directed and produced by Amiya Chakravarty is now in the editing room. The picture stars Shubha Khote, Ameeta, Anita Guha, Daljeet, Jawahar Kaul, Anoop Kumar and Shivraj with delightful music by Madan Mohan. Filmgoers don't have to wait long to taste Amiya's delicious pudding as "Dekh Kabira Roya" is scheduled for an early release in 1957.

RAWAL FILMS (Bombay)

Director-actor I. S. Johar resumed the shooting of "Miss India" at the Jagriti Studios after Nargis' return from the Russian trip. As a modern, sophisticated girl, Nargis portrays an entirely different kind of role in "Miss India", opposite hero Pradeep Kumar for the first time. Others in the supporting cast are Shammi, Pran, Badri Prasad and Nishi. S. D. Burman has composed some lilting tunes for "Miss India".

Producer-director M. Sadiq's Two Entertainers, "Mai Baap" & "Duniya Rang Rangeeli", Making Rapid Progress—Nimmi And Bharat Bhushan Thrill In "Basant Bahar", Vishwa Bharati's Musical Offering—"Miss Mary" Becomes A Rib-Tickling Comedy—Nargis Rises To Great Histrionic Heights In Mehboob's "Mother India" — "Parivar", A Domestic Drama, Drawing Crowds At Swastik—Amiya's "Dekh Kabira Roya" Goes To The Editing Room.

ISMAIL FILMS (Bombay)

At the Central Studios, "Do Roti" is making steady progress. The theme is said to be a purposeful one and in India where there are more hungry stomachs than full ones, "Do Roti" can be made to reveal a whole philosophy of Indian life. The cast consists of Balraj Sahni, Manju, Johnny Walker, Nazir Hussein, Minoo Mumtaz and Kanhaiyalal. Music is by Roshan.

BHAGYODAYA PICTURES (Bombay)

Producers Ravjibhai Patel and Natvarshyam released their mythological "Dwarkadhish" on December 28 in some towns of Madhya Pradesh. Depicting some colourful incidents from the life of Lord Krishna, "Dwarkadhish" stars Nirupa Roy and Shahu Modak in the principal roles with Sapru, Sulochana, Durga Khote, Kamal, Kamal Kapoor, Sunder and Yashodhara Kathju lending suitable support. Lyrics by Bharat Vyas have been appropriately tuned by Avinash Vyas.

MADRAS TALKIES (Madras)

Producer-director Joseph Taliath has completed a good bit of "Payal" starring Sunil Dutt, Agha, Baby Naaz and the two pretty dancing Travancore Sisters—Padmini and Ragini. With "Payal" as its title, one can surely expect some outstanding dances from Padmini and Ragini. Music is by Hemant Kumar. "Payal" is being distributed in Bombay circuit through AVM Ltd.

CHITRA RATNA (Bombay)

Producer-director Raja Yagnik has finalized plans for the production of "Parasmani", a biographical on the life of the famous lyric poet, Kavi Jaidev, who wrote the immortal "Geet Govind". Four songs of "Parasmani" will be recorded in January. Charming Nirupa Roy plays the heroine. Music is by Ajit Merchant.

MANGAL PICTURES (Bombay)

Director Raja Paranjpe who wields a deft hand at satirical comedy, has again met with box-office success in his latest social "Pasant ahe Mulgi" (Girl Is Approved) in Poona and other places. The picture was released at the Central, Bombay, on December 28 where it is running to packed houses. The screenplay is by G. D. Madgulkar and stars Marathi actress Rekha opposite the popular Marathi actor Raja Gosavi while Baburao Pendharkar, Dhumal, Leela Mehta and Ramesh contribute their bits to this racy comedy.

DOSSI FILMS PRIVATE LTD. (Bombay)

The shooting of "Chandan" has begun. This time Producer Fali Mistry has taken particular care to frame an emotional drama behind his excellent photography and entrusted the direction to box-office director M. V. Raman. "Chandan" presents three young girls—Shyama, Nutan and Kumari Kamala—and popular Kishore Kumar. Madan Mohan is reported to have composed some catchy tunes for Fali Mistry's "Chandan".

RAMAN PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director M. V. Raman's bi-lingual "Aasha" starring luscious Vyjayantimala opposite Kishore Kumar, is reported to have become a scintillating social. As Raman has many box-office hits to his credit already he must be knowing the unfailing box-office formula that is bound to make "Aasha" a hit with the masses. Raman is also busy with "Laaj", another social starring Vyjayantimala and Pradeep Kumar.

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NUTAN—

Youth needs a bit of drenching to keep its fire in some control. Young girls enjoy drenching only when they have a good figure. Besides, sticking clothes start a new game of hiding and attracting. Nutan brings new excitement to the screen in "Baarish", a social picture distributed by Kishendas Chhabra & Co.

DILIP KUMAR in

HABBA KHATOON

IN TECHNICOLOUR

DIRECTED BY **MEHBOOB** MUSIC **NAUSHAD**

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS PRIVATE LTD., Hill Road, Bombay 20.

Can you hear the bones cracking? When bones carry a lot of mutton they often get tired carrying the weight. Even eye-filling women have to relax once in a while to give the body another lease of activity. Shammi crowds the screen in the new sensational social picture planned by Producer Arora. He has not named his new baby yet.

This section is the monopoly of "JUDAS" and he writes what he likes and about things which he likes. The views expressed here are not necessarily ours, but they carry weight because they are written by a man who knows his job.

BOMBAY AFTER MORARJI

Freedom, which India is supposed to have got on 15th August 1947, actually arrived in Bombay at midnight of 31st October 1956, the day on which Morarji Desai relinquished office as the Chief Minister of the Bombay State.

This sudden release from a nine-year-old tension is reported to have almost killed seven police officers who had to be rushed to the hospital suffering from a severe shock due to an overwhelming impact of sudden joy and happiness. Other police officers had to be given varying quantities of brandy to steady their dancing nerves. Most of the members of the constabulary are reported to have opened their eyes 14 days later on the 14th November to celebrate Nehru's birthday. Thus for days crime stopped and went honeymooning with law and order.

The Parsis, always impulsive in their enthusiasm, celebrated an extra Christmas two months in advance while the Sindhis, commercial even in their personal freedom, announced clearance sales of all goods, including illicit whiskey bottles, at 50% reduction. Many prosperous Gujarati Congressmen openly carried their whiskey bottles to their clubs and drank to Morarji's eternal success in Delhi. Though nothing usually enthuses the average Maharashtrian, be it a birth or a funeral, even he went out with his wife and children to Chowpatty and spent some money in buying salted peanuts in spite of the impending danger of an attack of flatulence.

The city drawing rooms which were haunted by the spectre of Morarji Desai suddenly brightened and became ballrooms of happy bouncing couples and bubbling wine, radiating Christian love and goodwill towards all. Gone was the scowl of suspicion between man and man and the mock mask of hypocrisy between woman and woman. On the night of the 31st of October the city lights seemed to burn more brightly than ever before and yet they did not reveal the usual haunting shadow of Morarji Desai. The man had lost his shadow which has had sinister influence in the lives of three million people of the city for nine long years.

Yes, the citizens of Bombay are enjoying their freedom from the nine-year-old tension of mock morality and they will do so as long as the new Congressman in power does not become another Frankenstein of sadism.

Morarji's departure from Bombay was the greatest festival millions of much-harassed citizens enjoyed since the day the British left India. They went in their hundreds to the Bori Bunder Station to see Morarji off and to make sure that he didn't change his mind at the last minute. And they didn't mind S. K. Patil hitting them back with a triumphant smile thereby taking to himself all the credit of packing off Morarji to Delhi. They didn't care who packed whom as long as Morarji left Bombay. Citizens could be seen embracing and congratulating each other on their timely escape. Mill workers took a French holiday in sheer joy of escape and even the maternity hospitals reported easy deliveries.

Bombay's citizens are in such a fine mood at the moment that they don't seem to mind what egotistic nonsense our Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari talks and they don't care what new taxes he imposes on them. If the same mood continues—and it will if young Yeshwantrao Chavan, the new Chief Minister, follows his Parsi Secretary Manekji's advice and does not irritate the people by a lecture on morality or prohibition—Bombay's citizens

will forget even their dead heroes who went to heaven riding on police bullets for Samyukta Maharashtra and vote back the Congress into power again.

The tension of Morarji's rule and mock morality is not there any more and people feel easier and happier. Even the crime figures have gone down in the last two months—the moral provocation to crime being completely absent.

Yeshwantrao Chavan has become quite popular in social circles, his Deccan capacity to consume large quantities of food being particularly appreciated by much-powdered dowagers themselves struggling bravely with little bites to keep perfect figures. At a grand party given somewhere near the Pawai Lake in honour of Yeshwantrao, the guests are reported to have become so friendly that they brought out from their cars glasses full of whiskey and moved all over the place with gay abandon. They said it was the first moonlight party they enjoyed so well since the departure of the British.

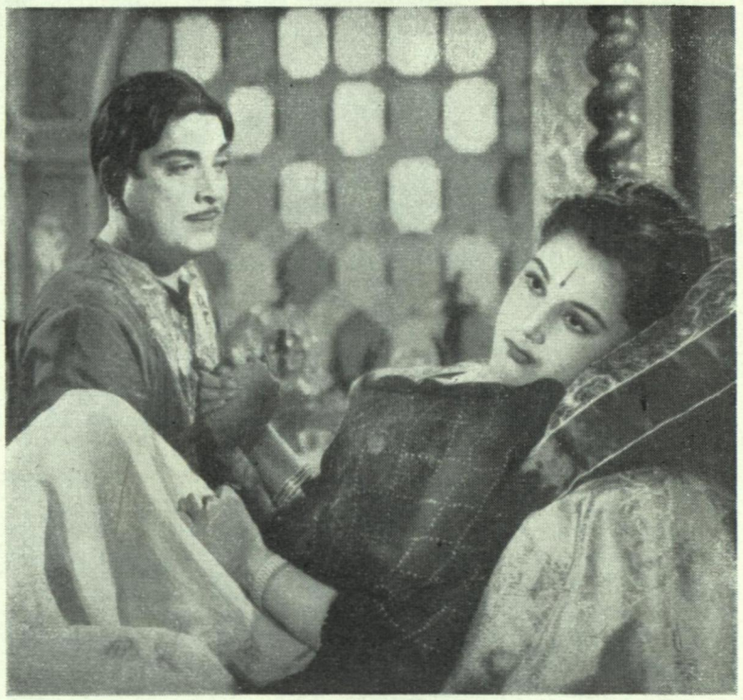
Even the old Parsis of the Tata Group are reported to have dropped a few of their usual frowns, and Homi Mody, their court comedian, is said to have taken to skipping and spot-running to prolong his life. With the tension gone, he evidently feels that life makes some sense once again.

Tension, as the Mayo Clinic experts will scream and tell you, causes hyper-acidity and ulcers. Whiskey which gives long life to the average Scotchman becomes a dangerous poison when mixed with tension. Tension counteracts the friendly intentions of ice and soda and adds disease to the drink. What tension does to whiskey, it does to food and orange juice. Tension also interferes with married life and even mild men unnecessarily start suspecting the loyalty of their gentle wives when newborn children sometimes begin to look like Congress ministers who come to tea and leave an indelible impress of khadi-wrapped virtue on the soft and plastic minds of their tea-time "bahens".

From murder to maternity, tension plays a great and dangerous part in human life. The entire medical science is built on the basic theme of removing tension from human life. The tension between Russia and America is giving us a new history of Hungary. The tension between England and Egypt is giving us a new tale of Suez. And so on and on, tension continues to write the history of the world in toil, tears and blood.

Anything, therefore, that causes tension is a dangerous thing. Morarji's mock morality was also a dangerous thing because it created tension which ruined many lives.

We are therefore glad that Morarji Desai was promoted to a higher post and we wish him all success there and long life. Of course, the tension travels to Delhi with his stiff back but let us hope it will dissolve in the sunlit smile of Nehru and no one gets ulcers there, the popular disease in New Delhi being—jaundice.



Not unwilling nor reluctant! But women like to show that they are indifferent to the professions of love. They, however, give one full ear to take them in though they apparently turn their face away. Raj Mehra seems a bit too old for Ameeta but that's why the picture is named "Talaash". The search probably continues till every one finds a mate of his own age.

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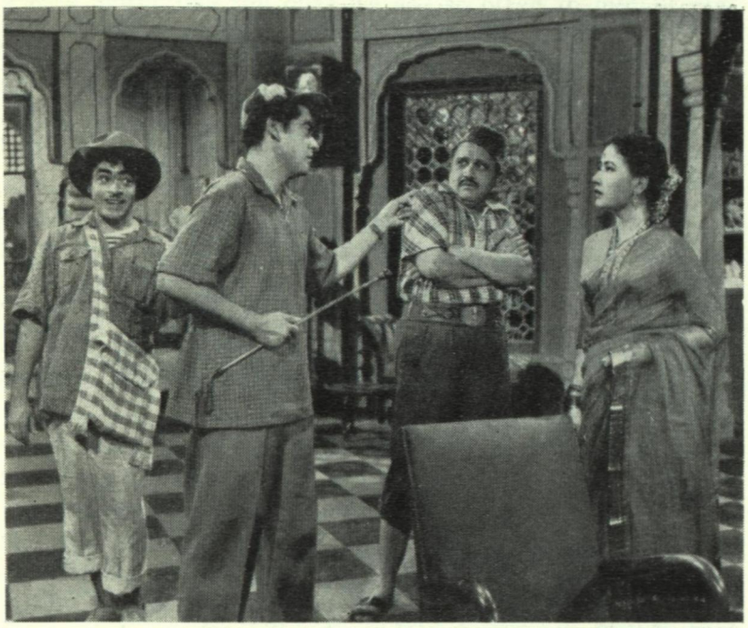

Kishore has a complaint against that cheeky Punjabi who adds unnecessary spice to a romance. But Meena Kumari doesn't seem to mind the helpful attitude of Om Prakash though she certainly objects to the impudence of Kishore in "Miss Mary", a thrilling romance produced by AVM.

62 CRORES FOR CONGRESS CONTRACTORS

P. R. Nayak, the I.C.S. chap in charge of the Bombay Municipality seems to be doing his bit to shake people's faith in the administration of the city by our Congressmen. Not satisfied with the deficit of Rs. 35,62,000 in 1957-58 budget of the Municipality, he has persuaded the white-capsuled members of the Corporation to sanction an expenditure of Rs. 75,000|- for a preliminary survey by "experts" of the proposed project of constructing an underground railway costing the small amount of Rs. 62 crores.

The Opposition members as usual describe this as "a criminal waste of public money". But then what other use of public money can any Congress administrator make except waste it? And since the Congress took charge of the country, we have never been short of money. All we need are votes to pass a new law legalizing new loot. And votes of our Congress lambs are available in plenty with or without asking them for this handsome purpose. The objection of the Opposition members raising doubts about the availability of funds or the possibility of using them usefully must therefore be peremptorily rejected. As usual the Opposition is stupid in questioning the talent of our Congressmen either to raise money or to waste it. Nehru's gangsters at the Centre and their Five-Year Plans conclusively prove Congressmen's talent in this respect.

Now, some evil-minded people in the Opposition think that the proposed 62-crore underground railway under the city is a grand and noble attempt to provide a long and circuitous readymade lavatory to the thousands of pavement dwellers in the city. These pavement dwellers, who have no roofs or shelters even to hide their heads, do need lavatories rather badly but the Opposition members had no business to lend the stink of a public lavatory—and you know how Municipal lavatories stink in I.C.S. Nayak's regime—to a 62-crore grand project of an underground railway so early in the day. That is what we call an evil mind.

Then city-father G. B. Mahashabde, another Opposition member, said, "Apart from the fact that the tube railway will become the hotbed of hooligans and unsocial elements, the continuous shock that the neighbouring buildings will receive will reduce the lives of those buildings."

Hotbed of hooligans! That is poetic alliteration! But who is a hooligan? Can we call the white-capsuled members of the Corporation hooligans because they shout, abuse and relieve the citizen of his money by levying taxes without his consent? Can we call Nehru's team of "welfare" ministers hooligans because they tax the people directly and indirectly without their consent to play

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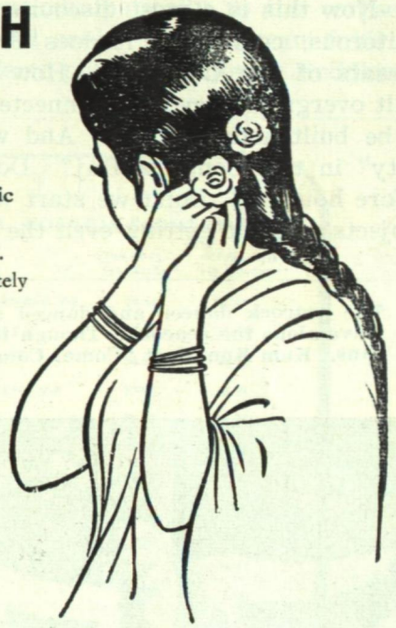

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one grand national Holi of the Five-Year Plans? When such dangerous hooligans operate overground why bother about a few torn shirts underground?

'Papa' Mahashabde's concern for neighbouring buildings is as touching as the love prescribed by the Christian commandment on neighbours. But if we go on thinking of old buildings in such an affectionate and biblical manner, how can we ever carry out Nehru's command of burning the slums ("Busti Jala Do!")? If the 62-crore underground railway will automatically bring down a couple of thousand houses every year, we'll soon have a city of new houses. Now why grudge something that can be automatically done, instead of wasting matches burning the busties?

The usual Congress confusion, however, made two city Mayors—one ex and the other current, both Congressmen—also give an opinion on the 62-crore project. Narsing Pupala, the ex-one, said, "To attempt a scheme like that before providing the citizens with basic necessities like houses is a bad order of priority". While Salebhoy Kader, the current one, when asked what should come first: houses or tube railway, said, "Definitely more houses".

Now this is a most discouraging attitude, not to say traitorous, coming as it does from two white-capsuled Caesars of the Congress. How can houses, which are built overground, ever be connected with a railway that is to be built underground? And who bothers about "priority" in this Congress Raj? Don't we have prohibition before housing? Don't we start wasting millions on some projects without getting even the plans ready? Don't we grab industries and undertakings without knowing how to run them? Is it necessary to do the right thing first? Haven't we always put the cart before the horse and the Congressman before God? Now who is Narsing Pupala, this Kamatipurawalla, to come along and talk of bad order of priority?

By what principles of priority did we push up Vijayalakshmi Pandit to her present lofty heights? By what principles of priority did we pick up our ebony diplomat Krishna Menon and send him flying to insult the world? By what principles of priority did we choose Anil K. Chanda's wife to supervise quarrelsome women artistes going on delegations?

Narsing Pupala's Gandhi cap must be drowned in the Gandhi Swimming Pool and his family removed from the slums of Kamatipura for talking of good and bad priority in such a frivolous and irresponsible manner. We can understand the P.S.P. rotters talking sensibly about priorities, houses and hooligans but well-seasoned, white-capsuled Congressmen talking intelligently is sheer treason. The Party Whip must whip Pupala on his bare bottom.

Whatever happens, we must have that damn 62-crore tube railway in our 15-mile long city. And if the distance is found too short for the budget we can go round and round the city till we finish a total of 124 crores of rupees on the Damodar Valley lines. For, like the progressive Congress, the expenditure of all Congress projects must also be progressive.

And after constructing the underground railway, if it doesn't work satisfactorily, we can always turn it into

The peacock danced and danced so gracefully that it made the woman jealous. And a jealous woman can ape even the monkey, leave alone the peacock. Though the woman has no tail to spread, she still has enough multi-coloured nylons supplied by the Americans. Kum Kum (not "Come! Come!") shows how attractive she can be, if rightly approached, in "Basant Bahar", a tale of song and dance.

a long sewer like the ones we see so often in motion pictures. We can advertise our sewer as a tourist attraction and ask S. K. Patil to take all distinguished visitors around the 124-crore underground sewer—Patil not needing special instructions in any underground manoeuvres. The open gutter at Worli always attracts the attention of so many American tourists every year that it is even worthwhile calling our tube-railway a national sewer project.

Whatever we call it—and what is in a damn name, anything underground will smell as sweet as a sewer—we must simply have some project to spend those 62-crores of rupees to start with. We don't want more houses as long as new pavements are made and we don't want more public lavatories either so long as the tube railway is constructed. Now that our curiosity is aroused, we must have that 62-crore tube railway.

We therefore whole-heartedly support Commissioner P. R. Nayak, I.C.S. in his sanction of Rs. 75,000/- for expert opinion. We think he is very modest in asking this amount. In New Delhi the same expert opinion would have cost Rs. 7,50,000/-. So I.C.S. Nayak has actually saved us a lot of money and we must be eternally grateful to him.

CONVERSIONS OVER A CORPSE

In the death of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar the nation lost one of its greatest social reformers during the last hundred years. The learned Doctor was more pointed and sincere in his life-work of emancipating the Harijans than even Gandhiji whose main theme of life was the freedom of the country, Harijans being mere grist to his own spiritual mill.

The Harijans will soon forget Dr. Ambedkar. Oppressed and depressed classes rarely nurse the memory of a hero unless they turn it into an idol and place it on the altar of prayer. Dr. Ambedkar is in the danger of becoming a stone idol. That would be poetic justice to the man who embraced Buddhism at the tail-end of his life.

But the theme of our present note is not the death of a great scholar and social reformer. It is about the way his corpse was used by his followers and by the Buddhist priests who officiated at the funeral.

Standing over Dr. Ambedkar's corpse, Mr. B. S. Gaikwad, the Secretary of the Bharatiya Buddha Mahasabha—evidently a new political Mahasabha, said that Dr. Ambedkar had planned to come to Bombay on December 16 and convert his followers to Buddhism. He said death deprived him of the opportunity of serving his community. Pointing melodramatically to the corpse of the great leader Gaikwad said, "But you can fulfil his last wish by taking a solemn pledge to embrace Buddhism."

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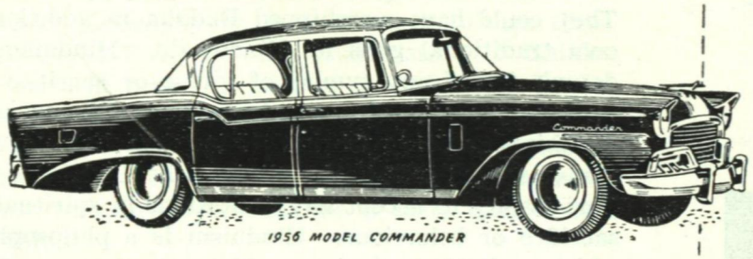

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7	PONTIAC CHIEFTAIN V-8	51.93	21.61
8	MERCURY MONTEREY V-8	51.92	21.59
9	PACKARD PATRICIAN V-8	51.63	18.75
10	RAMBLER SUPER 6	51.28	27.47
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14	HUDSON HORNET 6	48.79	20.65
15	FORD FAIRLANE 6	48.72	22.82
16	CHEVROLET BEL AIR 6	47.32	21.56
17	CHRYSLER WINDSOR V-8	47.07	18.23
18	FORD FAIRLANE V-8	45.79	20.60
19	DE SOTO FIRE DOME V-8	43.86	17.90
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HM-18/56

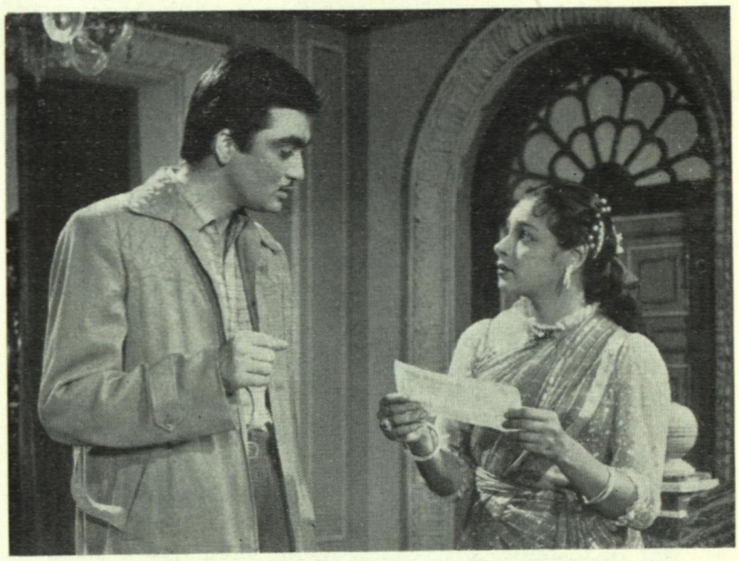
As Dr. Ambedkar died in his sleep no one knew what his last wish really was.

Anyway, with the smell of the corpse fresh in their noses, with the solemnity of the occasion staring them in the face and with tears still flowing from their eyes, three hundred thousand illiterate Harijans raised their hands with funereal enthusiasm in response to Mr. Gaikwad's call.

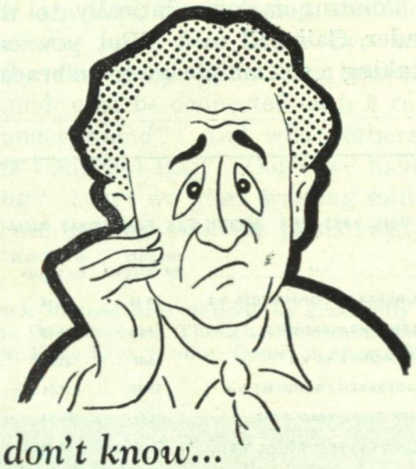
Mr. Gaikwad then asked Bhikku Kausalyayana, the country's second-ranking Buddhist priest, to convert the candidates to Buddhism. The Bhikku began his pyre-side conversion ceremony by reciting in Pali "Namo Bhagwato Arahato Samo Sambuhusso". The neo-converts chanted it three times with the Bhikku. Then began the three-legged song of Buddhism: "Buddham Sharanam Gachchami", "Dhammam Sharanam Gachchami", "Sangham Sharanam Gachchami". Bhikku Kausalyayana then made the masses repeat the tenets of Buddhism which seem to include the disowning of Shiva, Ganapati and Vishnu, the Hindu deities. The Bhikku didn't forget even Goddess Parvati.

That made three hundred thousand Hindu Harijans Buddhists within three minutes. A corpse was never used more spectacularly in history and never did a man, who lived mainly by the hatred of Hinduism, triumph more in death.

So we have now 500,000 more Buddhists in India—200,000 converted over Dr. Ambedkar's living body in Nagpur and 300,000 over his dead body in Bombay. Poor Harijans! They have always been footballs of destiny, be it the kick of cruel imperialist Brahmins or the gentle push of their own leaders. They have now lost even their religion which they had sipped with their mother's milk and nursed for thousands of years. Buddhism gives them nothing new except the new idol of a man who attained Nirvana. Hinduism never denied them the idol of Buddha. They could have worshipped Buddha in addition to their own traditional gods as Hindus do. Hinduism, in fact, doesn't forbid any symbol of virtue or sacrifice whatever its costume and clime and we find millions of Hindus worshipping Jesus Christ. Hinduism has never been a man-preached code-book religion like Buddhism, Islam or Christianity to accept any limitations in spiritual thought, sacrifice or behaviour. Hinduism is a philosophy of life which embraces all virtues wherever they are found and respects all good teaching whoever the teacher. Hinduism is a religion of universal love and does not admit communal limitations described by any particular teacher or code-book. Hinduism has no Bible, no Quran, no Dhammpad. The Bhagwad Gita, which the ignorant British named as a holy book to solve their Christian problem of taking oaths by some symbol, is not a bible of Hinduism. It is a song of wisdom and philosophy. There is no religious sanctity attached to it. Hinduism is a religion of humanity irrespective of creed, clime, costume or community. In its very universality is found its undying spiritual greatness.



Looks like a Municipal water bill! If it is that then the problem between Sunil Dutt and Ragini is purely domestic. Seeing that Municipalities are both careless and dishonest these days, housewives are often unnecessarily blamed for wasting water. Anyway let us see what are these two worrying about in "Payal", a social theme released by AVM.



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Ameeta seems to be holding a tent to lend grace to her pose in "Talaash", a mystery tale of mysterious love.

That is the religion which the poor, illiterate Harijans gave up and in doing so spat out the milk of their mothers which had nursed them from the breast of their mothers to the bed of their wives.

And what sort of a religion is this Buddhism which can accept three lakh conversions in three minutes? It evidently wants quantity and not quality. Surely, that was not the main theme of Lord Buddha's life and teachings. He wanted each man to discover his own path of enlightenment. It took him years to get Nirvana. But it took Bhikku Kausalyayana three minutes to turn three hundred thousand Harijans into Buddhists. If Bhikku Kausalyayana will take the help of the All India Radio, he can convert millions to Buddhism in a few minutes. And as quantity seems to be the theme and purpose of modern Buddhism, it is worth trying this experiment. Balu Keskar who already looks like a bony Bhikku will certainly oblige.

It is clear that the tamasha of conversions enacted over the corpse of Dr. Ambedkar had no spiritual grandeur or conviction about it. It was a political pantomime staged-managed by Mr. Gaekwad, Ambedkar's Harijan heir, and Bhikku Kausalyayana, Ambedkar's spiritual preceptor. Such mass conversion shows give a bad name to Buddhism, a great religion in itself, and to Lord Buddha, whose wisdom and enlightenment have guided millions through centuries of strife and confusion.

Seeing that politics is the main aim of these Buddhist mass conversions, and conversions on a mass scale cannot happen from spiritual conviction which is a narrow lane for individual queuing, we must strongly protest against them even as we did in the case of the Christian Missionaries. What is sauce for the goose must be sauce for the gander. If we condemn the work of Christian Missionaries as anti-national, we must also condemn these Buddhist mass conversions also as anti-national because there is politics in them—Communist politics which means more dangerous politics than the Christian game of White Man's democracy.

It is high time, the Government stopped these brazen and blatant mass conversions to Buddhism of illiterate Hindu masses for political purposes. We have nothing against Buddhism as a cult. In fact, we don't even recognize it as a religion separate from its parent religion Hinduism, but in Buddhism of today are embedded the germs of Communist ambitions of conquest and conversion to the most detestable political ideology. The Tibetan circus of the two Buddhist Lamas which recently visited India with a Chinese ringmaster lends support to our suspicions. The game seems to be to turn our 80 million Harijans into Communist stooges—aliens to their

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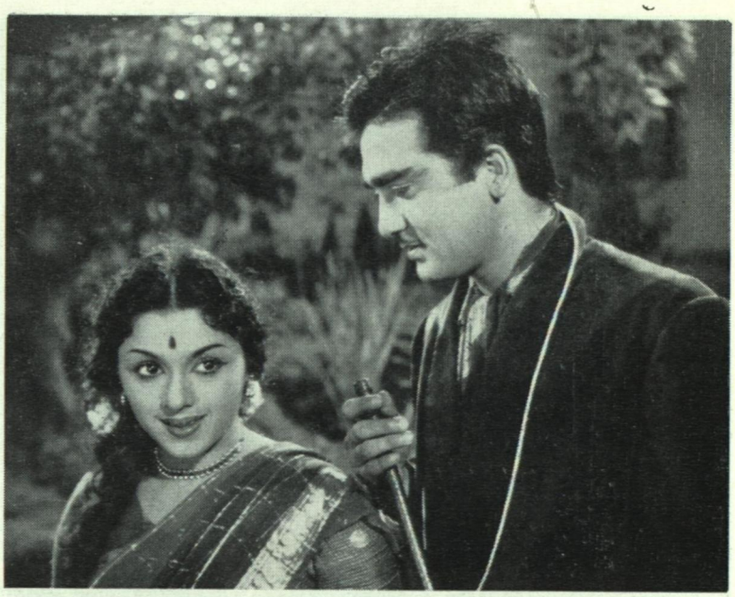
own nation and people. With 40 million Muslims already looking towards Pakistan and 80 million Harijans sought to be seduced through conversion, the future of India is going to be very, very shaky.

Haven't we signed a Panchshila agreement with China? Then why are these Buddhist Bhikkus interfering with our people and their ancient religion? Buddhism may be in fashion at the moment, because Nehru feels like Emperor Asoka, but must millions of Hindus be converted to Buddhism to keep ourselves in step with the latest fashion?

Hindus who love and respect the milk of their mothers must answer this question. And quickly before the new fire spreads.

YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE —

THAT like Nehru, everything in New Delhi is a half-hearted farce enacted to entertain our foreign visitors. In keeping with our double standard of morals, there is Prohibition in New Delhi and liquor flowing like water at the Palam Airport. Now, why shouldn't we have a bar at the Santa Cruz airport which handles more international traffic? Congressmen are not expected to answer this sensible question.



Sunil Dutt must make up his mind quick. We thought he was interested in Ragini, the littlest Travancore sister weighing 150 lbs. But he is now chasing Padmini, the 180 pounder, in "Payal", a social entertainer.

THAT Sibnarayan Singh Mahapatra, a Congress member of Lok Sabha from Orissa, who absented himself for 636 days out of 753 days on which the House met, ultimately lost his seat. The Lok Sabha refused to grant further leave to this sleeping Congress M.P., the Oriyan version of Rip Van Winkle. Nehru's next election is designed to elect such sleeping Congressmen to give himself another lease of dictatorship. A Congressman, dead or living, makes no difference as long as Nehru rules.

THAT at a dinner given in honour of the two Tibetan Lamas at the Rashtrapati Bhuvan in New Delhi, Indian 'thalis' were used to emphasize our cultural heritage in food. The foreign wife of an I.C.S. officer, however, mistook the 'thali' for a seat and sat in it. It was sheer good luck of the nation that she didn't imagine it to be a toilet. Nehru's internationalism is certainly creating new national problems.

THAT of all people Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the Congress pensioner enjoying the sinecure of being the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, feels the pinch of increased taxation. Speaking at Indore, the much-worried Pattabhi said, "Life is becoming more difficult. I paid super-tax at the rate of ten and half annas and now I will have to pay about 12 annas in a rupee as super-tax". What is wrong if Pattabhi pays even 15½ annas per rupee seeing that he gets the money for jam? Two pice in a rupee for a white cap is much more than it deserves.

THAT addressing the rich businessmen of Calcutta our Finance Minister, "I-My" Krishnamachari, described himself as a Robin Hood who took money from the rich

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The proverbial bad boy of the village is always a soft-hearted lad —at least in the presence of the girl he likes. Chanchal and Sunil Dutt have a moment to themselves in "Mother India", a tale of the soil produced and directed by Mehboob.

and gave it to the needy. That is an honest guy who thinks that confession justifies a crime. He also seems to have taken import licenses for motor parts from many and given them to the needy.

THAT Bombay's "Naya Cheap Minstar" Yeshwantrao Chavan has not yet settled down to work. He has been attending receptions and helping people to get over the pleasant shock of a "noo" face and a "noo" Chief Minister. And because Yeshwantrao has not begun work yet, he doesn't know that his Home Secretary Joshi is still carrying out the ex-chief's order and prosecuting Editor Patel on a flimsy charge which will waste public funds and make his Government look at once silly and vindictive. Poor Yeshwantrao, he has to tolerate around him not only the spies of Morarji Desai but also inherit his petty hatreds without even being invited to Gupta Mahal for tea.

THAT Dr. B. C. Roy, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, added romance to the life of the refugees from East Bengal when he quickly accommodated 2000 refugees in the Indralok Studio at Tollygunge. That kept them out of Pandit Nehru's sight and in the company of the past "apsaras" of celluloid who once gambolled in the laps of Marwari Indras. Yeshwantrao Chavan, Bombay's Chief Minister, should think of some such shelter for our Sindhi refugees. We have many film studios lying vacant.

THAT the all-round Mayor of Bombay, Salebhoy Abdul Kader, has a bad habit of turning up at places where he is least expected merely to get himself a break in the newspapers. Last time it was a hospital. This time he paid surprise visits to nine small hotels in Naigaum and was shocked at the way their kitchens were kept. He also found plenty of "Asav" bottles in these hotels. So, while getting some free publicity Salebhoy is also doing some work for the Prohibition police.

THAT Lal Bahadur Shastry, our pint-sized ex-Railway Minister, set a bad example of renunciation by resigning over the bridge tragedy at Ariyalur. Such self-sacrificing stunts by our Satyameva Jayate—stamped Congressmen unnecessarily encourage that Lok Sabha mischief-maker, H. V. Kamath, who expects the same self-immolation from Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, our jaundiced princess of health. The other day when that bearded Kamath again heckled her, she said, "I refuse to answer questions put to me in this manner". That is right! Kamath forgets that our Rajkumari is still a spinster and as such has every right to insist on a right approach. You can't manhandle women unless they are married.

THAT according to the Chinese Chou, Mao Tse Tung, the Chairman of the Chinese Republic, is learning English at the rate of four new words a day. At that rate it will require 3000 years for China to become a member of the British Commonwealth. That upsets the international balance in Nehru's mind. Nehru cannot wait for

3000 years for the Chinaman to understand his international lectures aimed at the British. These Chow Chows are hopeless linguists seeing that even our round and fat Anantasayanam Aiyangar has learnt Hindi.

THAT Pandit Nehru recently admitted his absolute ignorance of Indian classical music by saying, "It is very fine but I am myself just ignorant of it". And yet when he admires M. S. Subbulakshmi he calls her the "Queen of Melody". What other melody is this of which he finds her a queen seeing that her musical melody is beyond his understanding? Oh, that man's compliments make no sense. One day he will call Balu Keskar a king of melody.

THAT at the Naigaum police headquarters a grand Satyanarayan festival was reported to have been held recently to celebrate the departure of Bombay ex-Chief Minister, Morarji Desai, and to wish him greater glory and success at Delhi. The function was very largely attended, prominent among them being some Gandhi-capped bootleggers who, it is reported, have promised full support to the Congress in the coming elections only if Prohibition is continued. The morality of our citizens is certainly going up in Ram Rajya.

THAT when everyone congratulates Yeshwantrao Chavan for being the youngest Chief Minister of the biggest and richest State in India, he quietly wants to know where is the State over which he is supposed to rule seeing that before going Morarjibhai left Bombay State

Balraj Sahni is good in rickshaw-pulling, basket-making and other socialistic roles. Producers say that he looks such a natural coolie. But then coolies are the kings of the future and playing coolie kings needs a lot of talent. Shyama is attracted by this talented basket-maker in "Mai Baap", a sensational social theme produced and directed by M. Sadiq for Sadiq Productions Ltd.

to his two heirs, Capt. Manekji & Mehta, from the Publicity Directorate? One advantage of having Manekji, who is very popular in America, is that Bombay may get a loan direct from the Americans for completing the State's second Five-Year Plan. Let us hope that Manekji realizes that Prohibition is also spoiling our credit overseas.

THAT what Sohrab Modi, a strict teetotaller, did not do in India for sixty long years, he did in Moscow. According to the confession made by his charming wife, Mehtab, Sohrab shocked her by drinking two glasses of vodka in Moscow. Yes, vodka has a lot of shock in it for a woman. And now we hope there will be more colour and romance in Sohrab's pictures and that he won't produce any more Raj Haths. Mehtab should get a special permit of four units for our dear Sohrab. A little whiskey always gives a new meaning to life.

THAT our pretty film actress Sumitra who was till last year only an expert exponent of the Englishman's ballroom dance is now reported to be dancing round a bedroom with a handsome Englishman in her arms. If Sumitra marries the Englishman, we shall lose one of our prettiest actresses. Anyway, we wish the girl all happiness wherever she is. She will be happier in England than in this Congress-infested spot on earth.

THAT with Protima Dasgupta grooming a "noo" young and good-looking Nepalese model from Kurseong at her nursery in "Rahat Villa", Begum Para, who is made to look superfluous,, has decided to open a modern bath and beauty parlour for men who, she says, don't know how to even trim their nails, leave alone trimming their moustaches. Let us not laugh at the idea so soon. Seeing the number of sissies that walk the streets these

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JH-3

The weekly market day is the problem day for all farmers. They need so many things and they like to have so many things. From a big bullock to the little trinket for his wife, the farmer needs many things. But where is the money to buy all that? Raj Kumar and Nargis are trying to arrange priorities of shopping in "Mother India", a glorious tale of the land produced in colour by Mehboob.

days, the idea might bring in some money, which the old girl very badly needs.

THAT Mrs. Mehtab Modi and Malika Begum (film actress Suraiya's mother) are reported to have given a vigorous demonstration of strong Urdu words when a sympathetic Russian seeing the silent, swollen face of Suraiya offered to dance with her. Mehtab, of course, didn't like this international gesture but Mother Malika did and that made all the difference to the Urdu language which was used to spell out the names of ancestors on both family trees. The Indian Embassy officials, who did not understand high-flown Urdu, misunderstood the whole affectionate conversation about the ancestors of Malika and Mehtab and rushed for a bucket to collect Suraiya's tears. That is the trouble with these Madrasi officials. They don't know that tears of sentiment and affection don't need a bucket. They are to be swallowed back.

THAT cheeky Chopra who gave a walking-ticket to Madhubala by scrapping her work in his picture "Naya Daur" has learnt a lesson of his life when for 15 long days he sat on his haunches in Bhopal waiting for the rain to stop so that he could take the outdoor scenes of his picture. The rain didn't stop. How could it with Pathan Attaullah doing a dozen 'namazes' threatening even Allah. Attaullah is now reported to be learning black magic.

THAT the unexpected happens more often in the film industry than in other walks of life. Now the other day Producer-director Sunny took a "noo" find to the Bombay racecourse probably to explain to her the proverbial nobility of the four-footed animal. And lo! Mrs. Sunny happened to be there with her sister. The rest was melodrama and the "noo" find thought that the four-footed horse was really a noble animal seeing what two-footed ones can be. Poor Sunny! He had his weekly bath in his own perspiration.

THAT film actress Madhubala is so correct and conscientious in her work that if her Pathan father has contracted for twelve tears in a certain scene, she won't shed the thirteenth one. One such tear scene demonstrated on the sets of "Ek Saal" recently is reported to have moved even Producer-director Goel to tears. But Goel is wasting his tears in advance. Let him store them, for usually Madhubala's producers shed tears after the release of their pictures.

THAT Asha Mathur, our sharp-nosed film actress, is reported to have found her hero in life. The man was identified by friends as Producer-director Mohan Sehgal. We wish Sehgal all luck with his new friendship as long as he doesn't make Asha Mathur the heroine of his new picture. He must remember that we pay to see the picture.

THAT times are fast changing. Producers were once anxious to star new girls at extravagant prices. Now Producer-director K. B. Lall says that stars are running after him—money in hand—asking for a role in his next picture. And he named Chitra as the most art-conscious actress of the day. Lall still doesn't know that film actress Padmini of the South may finance an entire production if some enterprising director promises to make her as popular as Vyjayantimala.

THAT several Bengalis working in our film industry seem to have started a Bengali Club in the Shree Sound Studios. The main patron is Lalita Kumari, a Punjabi girl. And we thought that the Bengalis were parochial in their outlook.

THAT film actress Kamini Kaushal came home from her trip to Soviet Russia and wept for seven days. And though Suraiya sympathized with her, Kamini could not, it is said, get over the way the Russians completely ignored her. That must be because Rummy Sood put his face into every picture. And in her temper Kamini even forgot to see Chou En Lai in Bombay seeing that the Chinaman was so good to her in China.

THAT Tolaram Jalan, the Marwari Chief of Filmistan, is reported to have at last concluded negotiations with the Pakistan Government to take Indian artistes and technicians to Pakistan and produce pictures in Karachi using the money collected in Pakistan by old Filmistan pictures. Producer-director A. R. Kardar will probably take charge of the production activities in Pakistan on behalf of Filmistan.

THAT of all people, the dead and the dying producers of the film industry are celebrating the silver jubilee of talkies in Bombay. A Government spokesman openly described it as a bankrupts' jubilee. People wonder what these misguided producers are celebrating with cheques bouncing back and all assets seized by the income tax authorities.

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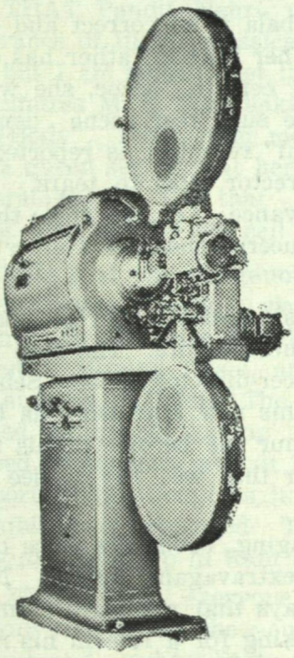

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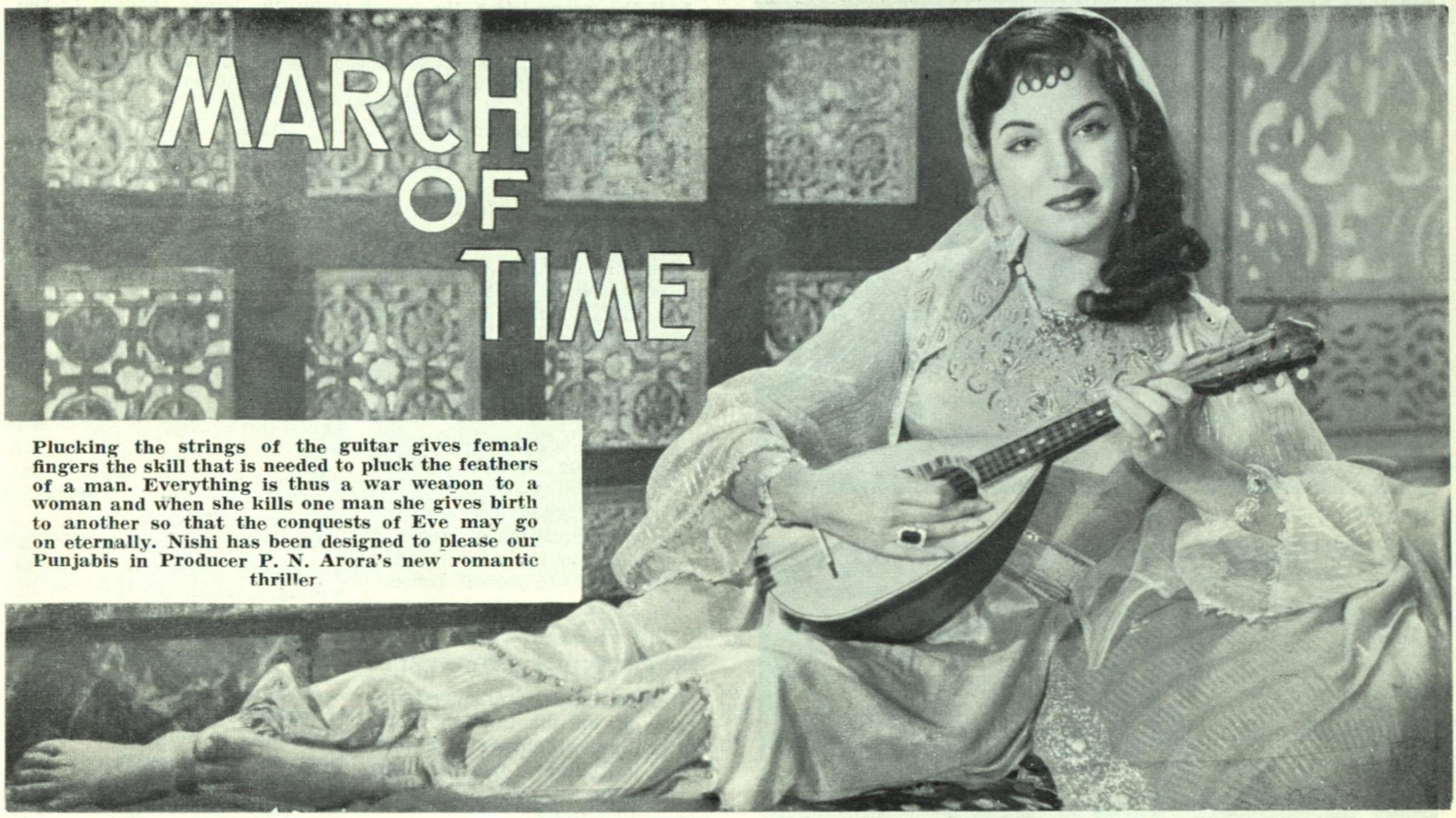


Plucking the strings of the guitar gives female fingers the skill that is needed to pluck the feathers of a man. Everything is thus a war weapon to a woman and when she kills one man she gives birth to another so that the conquests of Eve may go on eternally. Nishi has been designed to please our Punjabis in Producer P. N. Arora's new romantic thriller

RED IN VICTORY

The mass movement started by the Negroes of Montgomery, Alabama, U.S., under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pastor of a local Baptist Church, more than a year ago, to fight segregation in buses bore fruit when the Supreme Court unanimously upheld a district court's ruling that segregation in public transport was unconstitutional.

While the Montgomery case was being fought, the Negroes were operating a car pool of about 200 vehicles in which they moved to and fro for their work. Negroes celebrated their triumph by going to churches. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King who has been following Gandhiji's path of non-violence warned the Negroes against bragging and undue arrogance. Said King, "If you do, our struggle will be lost all over the South. Go back with humility and meekness."

BLACK AND WHITE

The now famous ruling of Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court that segregation in schools was unconstitutional given in May 1954 has improved life a little for the American Negroes though the Lincolnian ideal is still hidden behind distant clouds of hatred, prejudice and intolerance.

Recently David Loth and Harold Fleming of U.S., made a two-year report of their findings under the Fund of the Republic, an independent body with grants from the Ford Foundation. The report covered incidents of desegregation in education, private and public employment, housing, transportation, religion and public facilities.

Fleming noted that only five States—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina—still enforce complete segregation in State-supported colleges and all these but South Carolina had at least one private college admitting both white and Negro students. As regards segregation in housing, it was "not only deeply entrenched but virtually unchallenged in the South".

Loth found more liberality in the North where integration was achieved without "illwill or protests". There was one Negro as acting Mayor of Hartford, another a Vice-Mayor and another a Deputy Police Commissioner, etc.

Human nature being what it is, the black-white barriers will take many more years to break down.

NEW ZEALAND HOUSING

Three years ago, the Government of New Zealand was faced with an acute housing problem that nearly threatened to become a national crisis. A National Housing Conference of various organizations was held and it decided to build 206,000 houses in the next ten years. In 1954 16,600 new houses were completed—the year the new scheme started—18,500 in 1955 and an estimated 20,000 for 1956.

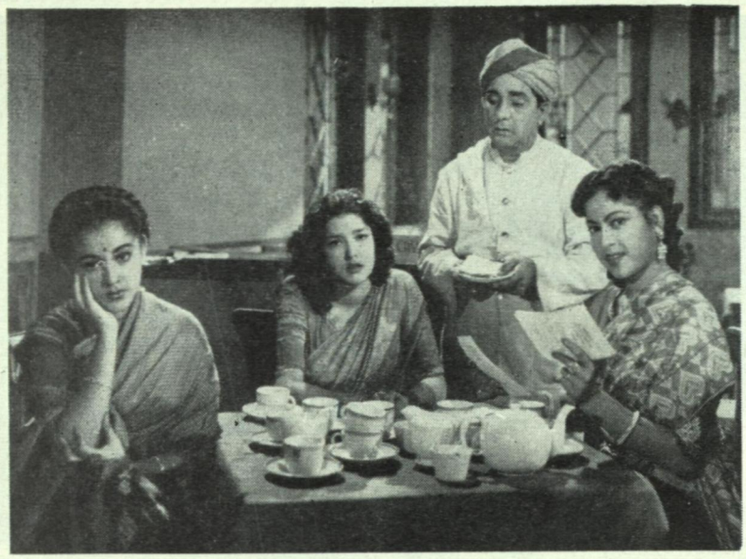
Progress has been made because of Government's helpful attitude. The builder doesn't suffer any loss because some of the houses are bought by the Government itself. The buyer also gets a good house under the scheme plans with specifications checked by the State Advances Corporation. For instance, in the case of a £3000 house, the institution lends £2000 on its own, the Government guarantees a further loan of £700 of the remainder, the purchaser having to find £300 himself.

The State Advances Corporation finances 1|3rd of all new houses built for private ownership. Besides this there are other smaller projects to encourage the "Build Your Own Scheme". The Government also keeps building low-priced houses for rent. 40,000 of these have been built so far and one in four has eventually been sold to the occupiers.

For a small nation of citizens, there is some hope of a solution in the near future. But for India that is Bharat with its teeming population, the housing problem can only end on doomsday.

BRAVE JEWS

It was the U.S. that was responsible for giving birth to the little State of Israel in 1948 and it is the U.S. that continues to cherish and foster this infant State. During the last 8 years American Jewish organizations collected more than $700 mil-



Is it the wrong letter, the wrong menu, the wrong thought or the wrong oyster? In love women eat less. Their thoughts fill their stomachs. Meet these three problem girls: Ameeta, Shubha Khote and Anita Guha, and Sunder doesn't know how to feed the dears in "Dekh Kabira Roya", produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

On the frontiers of youth, women are easier to bluff. You can take them almost anywhere and most of them are taken to hell. Jawahar Kaul has a fairy tale to deliver to Ameeta in "Dekh Kabira Roya", a sensational romance.

Those three vitamin-cylinders ought to make any old professor drop his grey beard and grow a black one. Let us see why Ameeta, Shubha Khote and Anita Guha are exposing the old man to such intensive heat in "Dekh Kabira Roya", a sensational theme produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

lion for Israel. This year the U.S. Jews expect to collect at least $125 million dollars to keep Israel alive.

Recently the U.S. Jews had an Israel Night at Manhattan's Metropolitan Opera House when three thousand sympathizers, mostly Jews, flocked to hear singer Robert Merill and bought $475,000 worth of Israeli bonds.

The most active body for this fund-collecting is the United Jewish Appeal, while others like Hadassah, Histadruth and the Zionist Organization of America manage to do their bit for the Jewish cause in far-off Israel.

The Jews refuse to be beaten in spite of Egypt's Col. Nasser.

IN FRIENDLY INDONESIA

Our friendly neighbour, Indonesia, one of the Colombo powers that pays homage to Pandit Nehru unfailingly, has also embarked on a Five-Year-Plan career like India.

The very first Five-Year Plan of Indonesia aimed at stabilising the country's economy is estimated to cost the Indonesian Government 12,500 million rupiahs, i.e. about 4 million sterling between now and 1960.

8% of the total cost will be met by foreign aid. The rest of the money, Government hopes to get from its own revenues and by issuing bonds.

Indonesia is already receiving technical help from the U.S. through the International Co-operation Administration while the ever-ready-to-meddle Russians have set foot in Indonesia as technical experts since the recent signing of the Soviet-Indonesian agreement.

SCHOOL FOR EVERYTHING

In the U.S. they give every art a professional touch from gambling down to striptease. There are two Las Vegas institutions which award graduates' degree P.G. (professional gambler) to their students. The institutions have the gambling paraphernalia including the roulette wheel. Graduates expect to earn at least 20 to 25 dollars a day at Monte Carlo once their training is finished.

Then there is an Academy for Ecdysists run by Texas night-club operator, Prof. Barney Weinstein, to train females between the ages of 18 and 38 who want to become strip-tease artists. They get their post-graduate training at Minsky's in Newark, New Jersey.

What is left untaught in the strip-tease schools is, of course, willingly taught to them in life by men with money and desire.

TOGETHER TO BED

Mass marriages, cheaper by the dozen, seem to be in vogue these days in Singapore. Eleven Chinese couples had a mass wedding ceremony at which a multi-millionaire officiated. The wedding cost them in all Rs. 55, including wedding fees, marriage certificates, decorations, etc.

The spokesman of the association said, "Mass weddings are so much cheaper that Cupid is beginning to regiment his victims. The fashion is to march to the altar in a procession."

The fashion after mass marriages is bound to be mass crying cradles.

THE "WORM" TURNS

Whether you like it or not, the indomitable human spirit rises up whenever someone tries to throttle it. The Africans are no exception as the recent African Conference at Bloemfontein showed. Attended by 300 delegates, the Conference called for a united front against apartheid. It rejected the findings of the Government-appointed Tomlinson Commission which had planned the division of the Union of South Africa on a black-and-white basis.

Mr. Robert Resha, a member

Motion pictures require a lot of "masala" in India to stop the average filmgoer from abusing the producer after the show. In a desperate attempt to protect their parents and ancestors, producers add different items of entertainment to a picture. In this item, Kum Kum is trying to add some sex-appeal to "Basant Bahar", a musical romance.

of the African National Congress, said that the Africans would fight till they were free in the land of their birth. The Rev. Z. R. Mahabane, president of the Inter-Denominational African Ministers' Federation which sponsored the Conference said, "Is the voice of the black man for ever to be treated as the whimpering of a child that cries, but knows not what he wants?"

FUSS OR FIRE?

Holland's first all-women fire brigade from the town of Goes went into action when a warehouse caught fire.

Fifteen girl-fighters under a woman commander fought the flames bravely and brought the fire under control within an hour.

Let us hope these women don't turn on their own fire brigade to control their men.

ADAM'S WIFE

Mrs. Maria Garzon Viuda de Castaneda of Bogota, Colombia, has disputed the claims of Javier Pereira being the oldest man in the world. While Javier is said to be 167 years old, Maria is 177 years. She was born on December 30, 1778.

Maria is perhaps the first woman who is not ashamed of disclosing her real age.

BANKRUPT ROYALTY

An interesting fact became known recently when Alexander Yourievsky, a 55-year-old storekeeper, earning £8-a-week, was granted his discharge in bankruptcy at Stockton County Court, England.

Alexander is the grandson of Czar Alexander II and seems to have left the Czarist traditions far behind. Learn to earn is a good slogan that can keep one fit, however humble the job.

WHY NOT?

Twelve leading British lawyers led by Lord Justice Jenkins have recommended that the State should assume that a woman is not able to have a baby after the age of 55. Under the present English law, a woman can theoretically bear a child at any time till she is dead. This question is important to lawyers in complicated will disputes.

In 1954, babies were born to two women over 55, one aged 56, and one aged 58 according to figures of the Registrar-General for England and Wales.

TOUGH CATS

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, females outnumber males by 1,381,000. Six years ago the difference in number between the two sexes was only 600,000, while at the beginning of the century males outnumbered females.

One reason is that women live longer than men. In each of the last six years male deaths have outnumbered those of females by 200,000.

The average age of the population is also gradually increasing because of medical aid to the ailing and the aged. There are 14,500,000 "over-65's" today as against 12,000,000 six years ago. This is a rise of 18.3% as against a rise in the total population of only 11.2%.

American women evidently are getting more and more tough.

DEATH IN AIR

Radiostrontium, better known as Strontium 90, produced by atomic reactors and nuclear weapons is a rather troublesome element because its fine particles remain suspended in the air and are in addition radioactive for years. Like Calcium, Strontium 90 is deposited in the soil, leaves, etc., and when eaten by

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The danger to human beings from Strontium 90, therefore, is real and not imaginary as believed by some scientists.

FROZEN AND CURED

Mrs. Ellen Moore, the expectant mother who had become unconscious for 169 days after a severe road accident, gave birth to a normal boy on November 18, at a hospital in Newcastle, England.

She was admitted in a state of coma and would not react to any known stimuli. The doctors then put her into a virtual state of hibernation by cooling anaesthesia for seven days with her temperature as low as 39 degrees centigrade sometimes. A month before delivery, Mrs. Moore regained consciousness and delivered a boy. Doctors are baffled by the miraculous survival of Mrs. Moore, who underwent a normal pregnancy in spite of her unconscious condition for days.

STRESS KILLS

Viennese-born Hans Selye, the 49-year-old endocrinologist and director of the University of Montreal's Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery, has come out with a new theory to explain the origin of disease after a series of researches. Selye attributes it to "stress" or what he calls it "the wear and tear of life"—technically the General Adaptation Syndrome (G.A.S.)

By exposing animals to external stress he found that the adrenal glands were activated. When the stress was prolonged, damage to the adrenal glands increased and the animals developed disease. Selye says that. "Nature has provided man with a hormonal system, which through his stress reactions can be suitably adjusted in the best way."

At the moment Selye is testing aldosterone, the adrenal cortical hormone isolated and synthesized two years ago in Switzerland. Selye's theories, however, have neither been completely proved nor accepted fully by doctors and scientists. Selye must study Indian income tax victims and he will discover a new element that cuts short life.

Wherever there is a Maharashtrian, there is a "tamasha". The "tamasha" (a sex-sprinkled folk dance) is the Maharashtrian appetizer before bedtime. Director Vishram Bedekar dresses up Bina Rai with his imagination and gives us a "tamasha" in "Talaash", a romantic thriller. Ashok Kumar, however, looks more convincing.

THE MONKEY EXPORT

Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the well-known discoverer of the polio vaccine, announced another discovery whereby the import of monkeys from India and the East could be eliminated. Monkey kidneys are used as the cells to grow the living virus for the Salk vaccine.

Miss Elsie Ward, working in Dr. Salk's laboratory, discovered a new strain of cells first grown from monkey heart cells. These cells keep multiplying indefinitely and can be used for growing the virus and also to supply test cells to make sure that the vaccine is safe.

That will stop the dollars which our monkeys earned.

TEENAGE V. D.

The prosperous Americans have another new problem on hand, that is the alarming rate of venereal disease among U.S. teenagers. It is reported that 200,000 persons between the ages of 11 and 19 are suffering from V.D. now and probably 200,000 more will be affected by next year.

The American Social Hygiene Association has granted $92,000 for a study on teenage V.D. Some aspects that will be investigated are: relationship between V.D. and juvenile delinquency, teenage sex behaviour, social and economic background of these teenagers.

HYPNOTISM HELPS

At a convention of the American Society of Anaestheiologists held in Kansas city, U.S., Dr. Vincent Vaughn of the University of Iowa told his colleagues that "hypnosis improves the conduct of any anaesthetic by enlisting the patient as a partner in reducing apprehension." In hypnosis, the doctor was merely the suggester, 75% of the work being done by the patient himself.

Vaughn defined hypnosis as a "natural power" inherent in man like sleep or day-dreaming. Though some patients have undergone surgery under pure hypnosis, the technique does not supplant the need for drugs in

anaesthesia, only lighter doses are required ensuring a quicker recovery.

NEW WASTE

A London hospital has started using radioactive "waste" on a large scale for the treatment of deep-seated cancer. The "waste" is got from the atomic piles in Cumberland.

The radioactive caesium is about the size of four ordinary lumps of sugar with an activity of about 1200 curies. It is encased in a platinum capsule which in turn is enclosed in lead and uranium protective coverings. The protective coat weighs one ton so that the operator is not affected by the radioactive caesium. The apparatus is simple enough and will give service for 15-20 years without replacement.

U.S. is also making caesium on an experimental scale but Britain is the only country which has a production plant to produce regular supplies.

RED STAINS

Psychologists of the McGill University, U.S., carried out experiments on 22 male students to find out whether brain-washing indulged in by Communist and fascist countries has any permanent effect on the man.

The brain-washing technique consisted of putting the volunteers in solitary confinement. Then their senses were cut off by artificial means. It was found that after a short time the subject could not concentrate. He could not solve any problems because he suffered "hallucinations and dream-like experiences."

Anyway, the results go to prove that the effects of brain-washing are not lasting and "the prisoner returns to his former cultural milieu and to his previous attitudes towards his fellow beings."

GETTING CASTE

A new dog breed that is slowly coming into fashion in the U.S. is the Mexican hairless dog. Called the "Xolos", they were used in old times by Mexican Indians as a source of meat. Some used them in sacrifices as they thought that the Xolos took their souls to heaven.

A Xolo's body temperature is 104°F, and his skin feels hot to the touch. In some parts they are used as hot-water bottles because of this quality.

Dog-fancier Norman P. Wright selected 8 Xolos from the wilds of Guerrero and in cooperation with the Mexican Kennel Club, bred puppies. At the moment there are 22 recognized Xolos and interest in them is growing. Other Kennel Clubs in U.S. and England will soon recognize this breed.

Even the hairless, queer-looking Xolo seems to be having its admirers.

WEATHER RECORDIST

A meteorological device for recording weather conditions known as the "Grasshopper" will be used for research in the Antarctic during the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58.

The "Grasshopper" on landing automatically opens in an insect-like fashion on its six legs and starts working. It transcribes its report into international Morse Code and transmits it by radio at 17 words a minute.

The device is capable of working for 60 days and registers wind speed and direction, temperature, barometric pressure and humidity.

NEW ARMAMENT

After successful experiments by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Experiment Station, entomologists have discovered that wasps are natural enemies of tobacco hornworms, budworms and other tobacco plant pests that destroy acres and acres of tobacco and cotton plantations in the South.

Now many types of shelters are being given to the wasps so that they are protected from the weather and they do the job of destroying the hornworms more thoroughly. Two hornworms to 50 plants can damage about 500 leaves in an acre.

Even wasps have to be nursed, it seems.

WISE BULLOCKS

Research on the nutritive contents of forage grasses has revealed that they are the richest source of vitamins. The American Chemical Society has found that grass contains 23 times more vitamin A than carrots, 22 times more vitamin B-2 than green vegetables, 9 times more vitamin B-1 than garden produce and 14 times more vitamin C than the usual sources.

Two factories in America and one in Canada have, therefore, started converting the grass into human food. Soon we may have

Bad costumes often add age and experience to a woman whose youth and figure would otherwise be the envy of many. Motion picture producers must seriously tackle this problem if the girls they discover have to supply the filmgoers with the right amount of meat proteins. Chitra fights back a clumsy tailor in "Neelofar", a colourful love tale produced by P. N. Arora.

AWAITING EARLY RELEASE!

SAGA OF SILENT SACRIFICE OF A BROTHER, MADE MORE ELOQUENT BY HIS DEEDS & DEVOTION TO DUTY

Hari Har Chitra's Maiden Mythological.

RAM LAKSHMAN

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Songs. Pt. BHARAT VYAS. ★ *Special Dance by* **GOPI KRISHNA** ★ *Music.* AVINASH VYAS.

★ SULOCHANA ★ SHAHU MODAK ★ KUMARI NANDA ★ ANANT KUMAR ★ LALITA PAWAR ★ TIWARI & GOPE.

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Please Contact

HARI HAR CHITRA

Harganga Mahal, Dadar-T.T.,
BOMBAY 14.

powdered grass in milk-shakes and ice-cream with grass extract.

The animals that chew grass seem to know more about the mystery of the vitamins than we do. That is why Indian Congressmen have bullocks as their Election Symbol.

GENUINE ICE

Anything novel gets a queue of crazy followers. The new craze that is fast spreading in U.S. is glacier ice from Alaska which sells at £650 a ton.

A New Yorker one day ordered a chunk of the 1,000,000-year-old Medenhall glacier in Alaska, for his party to be different from others. The chunk of ice took long to melt and there was an immediate demand for it. Now an Alaskan Corporation flies chunks of the glacier regularly to New York.

CAFFEIN POISONING

The consumption of coffee in the U.S. has gone up by 12.6% since 1950, according to the Brazilian Government Trade Bureau reports.

One person in every three drinks four or more cups of coffee daily. The average daily consumption of coffee by Americans over ten years old is 2.68 cups slightly higher than 1955 rate but 12.6% higher than in 1950.

Americans seem to be as fond of coffee as our idli-dossai-eating South Indians.

CHANGING THE SEA

The Dupont Chemical Company of U.S. in cooperation with the U.S. Interior Department have perfected plans for converting salt water to fresh water by means of solar energy. The solar stills will be constructed and operated by the U.S. Government while materials for construction of prototype stills and for experimental tests on salt water conversion will be supplied by Dupont.

The new development of the "ten-effect" solar still is a definite advance because from a given area exposed to sunshine it can produce about six times as much fresh water as a single conventional still.

Some day thousands of square miles of arid land in the south-west States of U.S. may be made available for farms if the process is carried out on a large scale.

ICE MONOPOLY

Americans have now begun to inhabit the South Pole, the present population being 24. Lt. John Tuck, a U.S. Navy man, who returned from the South Pole on December 2, gave his description of life at the bottom of the world as, "It's miles and miles of nothing". The last account was given by Capt. Ronald Amundsen in 1911. At that time, no one spent more than two or three days there. Lt. Tuck spent 12 days there.

Said Tuck, "The first couple of days we went around like actors in slow motion." This is due to the thin air at the Pole's high altitude and a cold of 25 degrees below zero even in summer.

The U.S. Navy is building a polar station at the South Pole for use in the International Geophysical Year programme.

HULLO POONAH!

On November 12, the new overseas exchange at Poona was opened by V. D. Dalvi, Bombay's Postmaster-General. This exchange puts Poona in direct radio link with 15 important capitals of the world and 39 other countries. One of the links is with Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

The first overseas link between India and the United Kingdom was established 23 years ago. At that time the radio link was working for only two hours a day and handling two to four calls a day. Today the exchange handles between 100 and 150 calls a day.

ROBBING EVERYTHING

There has been a considerable increase in the number of trunk calls made in India per year, from 8 million in 1950-51 to 22 million in 1955-56. Trunk call service could be improved even more but for cases of theft of copper wire which have also increased in large proportions from 2000 cases in 1951-52 to 4000 in 1955-56. The loss through theft in 1955-56 has been estimated at Rs. 9.68 lakhs. Nearly 60% of all copper wire thefts in the country are report-

ed from the Delhi-Calcutta circuit.

An Act making the mere possession of a telegraph copper wire an offence is in force though copper wire thieves continue to ignore it.

600-YEAR-OLD CORPSES

A round copper coin found in the Rupkund finds has helped archaeologists to understand the Rupkund mystery better. Dr. Chinmoy Dutt of Calcutta University, who deciphered the coin, read the words "Tughluq Shah" on it. In his opinion, the coin belongs to Mohammed Bin Tughluq who ruled India from 1325 A.D. to 1351 A.D. According to contemporary historians, Tughluq sent an expeditionary force to an unknown distant destination, perhaps China. The army perished in the snow while only a dozen returned to the capital. The Rupkund finds are now believed to be the last remains of those unfortunate soldiers.

HARD-EARNED PROSPERITY

The average family income in the U.S. has gone up by 6% compared to the 1954 figure which was $4170. In 1955 it was $4400.

The proportion of families with incomes under $2000 declined from 20% of the total in 1954 to 17% in 1955 while the proportion of all families receiving incomes of $5000 or more rose from 37% in 1954 to 41% in 1955.

The average income of non-farm families increased by abo 7% in 1955, mostly due to wag rate increases and greater regularity of employment among non-agricultural workers.

TALE OF SHADOW

Japanese scientists have invented a new television camera called the "Nocto-television" camera which can pick up images in the dark on the stage, street, etc., up to a distance of 100 metres.

The naked eye can penetrate up to 60 angstrem (the measure in optical terms) while in this camera it is up to 12,000 angstrem. Infra-red rays are utilized to achieve this effect.

AMERICAN ROCKET

An American-built Aerobee-Hi rocket was launched into the air on November 12, 1956, 610 miles north of Winnipeg. The 30-foot scientific rocket soared 100 miles into the air and marked the third successful launching of the United States International Geophysical Year project.

There was some damage to the inverted funnel-shaped tower from where the rocket was launched because of previous firings.

KILLING MECHANISM

Life for jet-plane pilots is becoming more and more precarious these days, their goal being firing at supersonic speed. Recently the U.S. Navy tried out 20-mm guns of a Grumman F11F-1 fighter off Long Island with Test Pilot Tom Attridge.

Attridge took a dive and speeded up to 880 m.p.h. and fired about 70 rounds. Then he took another steeper dive and fired the second round. Then suddenly something shattered his windshield and the engine stopped. He made a crash-landing, breaking one leg and three vertebrae.

The trouble started with the fire from his own guns. The non-explosive bullets hit the windshield, the engine and the nose. If the projectiles were explosive, Attridge would have been dead.

"Better buy Capstan,—
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DELHI. U.P. ... The Rawalpindi Theatres Private Ltd., Chandni Chowk, DELHI.

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SOUTH ... Mahendra Films, I-D, Rashtrapati Road, SECUNDERABAD-(Dn.)
(MYSORE ... Hema Film Exchange, Bangalore.
ANDHRA ... Rambhai Patel & Sons, Vijayawada).

C. I. RAJASTHAN ... Movie Film Exchange, Prakash Talkies

OUR REVIEW

"Gotama the Buddha", A Bold Experiment !

First Fruit Of Marie Seaton's Visit !

"Gotama the Buddha", a feature-length documentary film produced by Bimal Roy and sponsored by the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, shows that this department of the Ministry is capable of undertaking some bold experiments. In a red-tape-wrapped and convention-bound bureaucracy, it is a welcome sign. Incidentally, this film is the first benefit we have had of the visit of Miss Marie Seaton who exhibited "Life of Christ" produced on similar lines with the help of paintings.

The film is a good and courageous attempt to tell in about 7500 feet of painstakingly moulded celluloid and through a grand and gigantic array of sculptures, paintings and frescoes, the message and life story of Siddharth, the great sage and teacher of ancient Kapilavastu who some 25 centuries ago founded a faith which is today followed by over one-third of mankind. The film contains no living creature except some stray shots of birds and no mobile thing except occasionally seen frothy sea-waves, water-currents and clouds.

What the eye constantly sees are ancient, and often scarred, statues, friezes, frescoes, rock-carvings and paintings juxtaposed to form a coherent and dramatised tale with a beginning, a theme and an end. The visual narrative is complemented by a commentary, spoken in varied voices and pitches, which tries to convey what the silent stone cannot by itself do at least to the average picture-goer.

THE TALE IN STONE

The sculptures thus show us the ancient India of 2500 years ago. We see a simple community of a simple people happy in their simple pursuits like cattle-milching. We also see pot-bellied tradesmen beside their sacks of goods. We then see rather an unsettled spiritual life. There are over-wise looking astrologers and self-torturing ascetics,

We then turn to the Gotama family of Kapilavastu and see Siddhartha's parents, Suddhodana, the King of Kapilavastu, and Maya. Siddhartha is born, there is rejoicing, and the astrologers make glorious predictions about the child. The child grows up in luxury. He then gets his introduction to human suffering and pain by seeing human beings bent with age and broken with disease. The young prince begins to think about pain and suffering.

Siddhartha is then married to Yashodhara, but many years of married life in cloistered luxury are unable to kill the restless thought kindled in him by human suffering. He therefore leaves his home, his wife and child, in quest of a solution to the riddle of mortal ills and in search of the meaning of life. And at long last, after years of wandering and profound meditation, dawns upon him the Path and he becomes the Buddha (The Enlightened One). We then see the Buddha setting out to distribute to one and all the fruits of his enlightenment, meeting his wife again and giving a discourse, and after years devoted to preaching his gospel attaining Mahaparinirvana.

The film is no doubt a cinematic attempt of its own kind in India and at least as a bold experiment involving tremendous labour deserves praise. It is, however, not a very successful attempt and is certainly not an ideal example of documentary film making. The sight of nothing but silent stone statues and carvings in close-up for 7500 and odd feet does begin to make heavy demands on the patience of even a most eager and curious spectator. The camera of course pans and tilts and advances and retreats to infuse dynamism, and the film editor juggles a lot with the film, cutting sharply and dramatically to break the monotony and even makes the frames dance in step with the rhythmic background music, and the music director pours over the film quite a rich coating of vocal and instrumental music providing even a couple of folk songs, and the words and voices of the commentary valiantly try to infuse life and emotion into the film, yet, in spite of these efforts, the film's pace is more plodding than facile, its commentary more sonorous and pedantic than graphic and graceful, and its overall appeal more coldly academic than dramatically absorbing. The length was three thousand feet too long.

Producer P. N. Arora in his eternal search for Dame Fortune, keeps stumbling over new maidenly misfortunes. This "noo" one is called Vimla and Arora introduces her in "Neelofar", an Arabian tale, knowing that Arabs don't mind anything as long as "it" is young.

AND YET—

The trouble with "Gotama the Buddha" is not so much in the execution of its design as with the design itself. The very idea of telling a biographical tale by having the camera stare at sculptures and paintings for 7500 feet spells monotony. Therefore, even though, within the framework of the design, the Buddha documentary is made quite skilfully and imaginatively, it fails to exactly click.

But even within the design, instead of beginning with rambling shots of snow-covered Himalayas and waterfalls and sea-waves, accompanied by an affectedly spoken introductory commentary, the documentary could open with panoramic shots of the numerous Buddhist rock-cut monasteries and temples in India, and the camera could leave the stone sculptures for a while to give a bird's-eye view of the village of Bodh-Gaya, the traditional place of the Buddha's enlightenment, without being concerned by the village's present-day look; and resort could be had to more paintings, even modern ones, or wax and plaster models to fill in more details in the illustration of the subject's life-story; the commentary could be simple, more vivid and in happier phraseology and it could be spoken by all with the same intelligence and range of expression with which it is spoken by Uma Anand who interprets the Buddha's anguished inquiries about life and its meaning with rare emotion and dramatic effect; the folk songs with modern-day strain could be avoided as jarring; and, as one more

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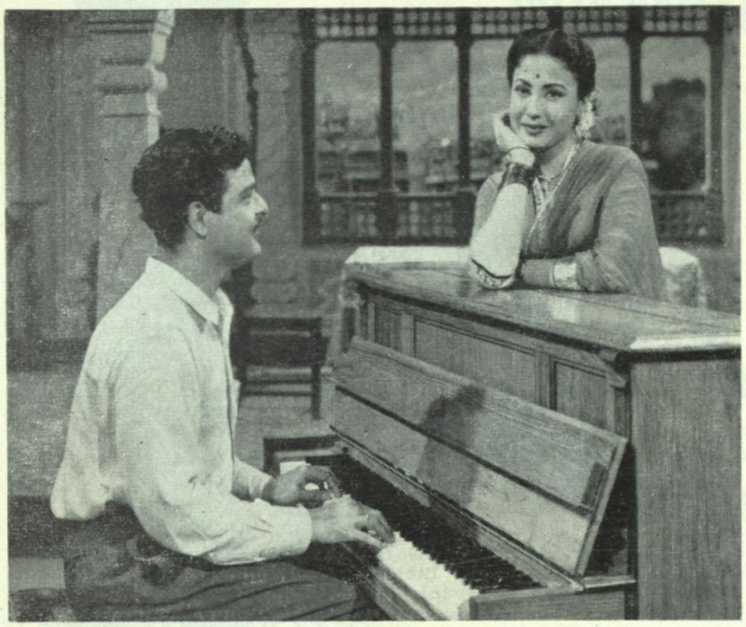

When men sing, God alone knows what women think. But women are patient and polite and they tolerate a lot. Look at the mild enthusiasm with which Meena Kumari receives Ganesh's music in "Miss Mary", a thrilling romance produced by A. V. Meiyappan for AVM.

instance, the entire footage following the Mahaparinirvana could be deleted as embarrassingly irrelevant.

However, when all is said and done, "Gotama the Buddha" must be described as a bold and interesting experiment. The experiment fails but it is a failure more glorious than the average successes of film makers. It is worth pursuing such failures till the idiotic Congress voters learn one day to appreciate such pictures.

GOTAMA THE BUDDHA

Producer: **Bimal Roy**
Commentary: **Rajbans Khanna**
Music: **Salil Chowdhury**
Photography: **Dilip Gupta**
Editing: **Hrishikesh Mukherji**
Released At: **Metro, Bombay**
Date of Release: **29th November, 1956.**

Directed By:
RAJBANS KHANNA

OUR REVIEW

"Raj Hath", Silly Costume Claptrap

Modi And Madhubala Flop Together

Minerva Movietone's "Raj Hath" claims to have something to do with the "annals of Rajasthan" and then sets out to prove that Sohrab Modi is still very much in love with his own voice. It shows him once again donning whiskers as a Rajput character and doing a dead-pan delivery of applause-fishing slabs of dialogue. "Raj Hath" is thus one more expression of Sohrab Modi's obvious love for his voice than a history-flavoured motion picture.

However much one may admire Sohrab Modi's enthusiasm and capacity for labour as a producer and director, one cannot avoid irritation at the evident fact that this veteran still wallows in the misconception that declamation is the essence of screen acting and claptrap the highest goal of motion picture production. His old staginess, both as actor and director, is seen in an advanced stage in "Raj Hath" which is about the worst picture he has ever made and one of the silliest pictures ever made by anybody anywhere.

Shams Lucknowi's story claiming inspiration from the "annals of Rajasthan" is dull and trite while his screenplay is a big catalogue of absurdities, some of them so patent that one did not expect at least Sohrab Modi to swallow them and in his turn to force them upon the picture-goers.

AN IDIOTIC TALE

The story tells about Daljit and Bakhtavar Singh, the respective rulers of Jagmer and Satnapur in Rajasthan, both being traditionally at loggerheads with each other and each a bit of a loggerhead. To add a new point to the score of his ancestral enmity with Daljit, the malicious Bakhtavar Singh dishonestly offers to marry his son Kumar to Daljit's daughter Kumari. The good-natured Daljit takes the offer seriously and deciding to bury the old hatchet, sends his brother Sangram Singh to Satnapur to confirm the engagement of Kumari. Having got Daljit into his trap, Bakhtavar now inflicts the calculated insult by laughing scornfully at Sangram in the open court, declaring that he could never think of marrying his son to his enemy's daughter, and finally by calling his son to kick away the ceremonial presents brought by Sangram.

Sangram rushes back with the insult to Jagmer and the irate Daljit instantly starts preparing for an attack on Satnapur to avenge the insult. The spurned Kumari first sheds a tear but later taking inspiration from her father she too vows vengeance.

Daljit, however, soon realizes that all his anger and arms would prove to be of no avail against Bakhtavar whose sturdy fort with all its labyrinths was a renowned death-trap for all invading forces. Daljit therefore orders his spies to get hold of the map of the Satnapur fort. After a dozen spies lose their lives without succeeding in their mission, Kumari and her attendant Juhi flatten their chests, don turbans and whiskers and present themselves before Daljit seeking his permission to take a trip to Satnapur for the map.

Daljit, of course, completely fails to spot both his daughter and a woman behind a childish disguise and Kumari straightaway bounces away to Satnapur for one of the most stupid episodes ever seen on the screen. There she meets Kumar, awkwardly rocks her rump before him as a street dancer, and soon returns to Jagmer with the map. She, however, meets Kumar a couple of times more while accompanying her father on a visit to a temple of Shiva, a little away from which Kumar happens to be parked in a tent during a hunting expedition, and by the time the temple visit is over Daljit has vowed to offer to the deity the head of Kumar who had insulted his daughter or failing that his own head, while Kumari in turn has vowed undying love for Kumar.

When Bakhtavar learns of his son's adamant love for his enemy's daughter, he decides to yield and takes his son in a marriage procession to Jagmer only to be treated in the same way by the irreconcilable Daljit in which he had treated Daljit's brother Sangram. Bakhtavar's procession starts marching back humiliated but before it goes very far the proud Daljit comes running after it requesting Bakhatavar to turn back and take Kumari away as his son's bride, Daljit's mind having been changed by his love-lorn daughter's unsuccessful suicide attempt. It all ends with Kumari's head nestling against Kumar's bosom and her father's severed one rolling at the feet of the deity in fulfilment of his vow.

A POOR PRODUCTION

The picture throughout keeps stumbling from one absurd scene to another and fails to generate even a little interest in the spectator.

The production values are none-too-impressive either. There is precious little visual evidence of the Rajput pomp and pageantry. The wedding processions in the picture look hardly better than a medieval merchant's pilgrimage party with a gloomy touch about it. The sets are old and rickety ones seen so often. Photography is not always pleasant. Sound is well recorded. Music is generally of a variety which neither goes to the head nor to the feet. It is uninspiring and it fails completely. The lyrics range from tolerable to trite. The dialogue is long-winded and tailored for stage effect, and is often laughably silly as in the scene where Daljit upon hearing the news that his daughter has taken poison tells the messenger, "Us se jakar kah de

The Murphy Singing Contest promises to be a great success seeing the people interested in it. From left to right: Edi Alva, D. D. Vasudeva, D. D. Lakhanpal of Murphy Radio, S. K. Patil, Anil Biswas, D. N. Chaudhary, Madan Mohan, S. S. Agnihotri, Vasant Desai and S. M. Ebrahim.

ki tera baap mar gaya; aur tu bhi mar ja". It is rather a pathetic situation but the audience cannot help laughing at the crude line and the crude way in which it is spoken by Sohrab Modi. As to the direction, it is singularly unintelligent and unimaginative and even more appallingly stagey than usual with Sohrab Modi. Experience seems to be making this man more useless even in a technical job.

From the players, Sohrab Modi, as Daljit, speaks some theatrical dialogue and makes some theatrical gestures which is the only thing which prevents one from mistaking him for a piece of furniture in the setting. For a perfect example of a poker face one must see Sohrab Modi's in "Raj Hath". The man cannot act and will perhaps never act. His face seems set against the histrionic art. Madhubala as his daughter gives a performance behind which is seen not the slightest trace of intelligence or talent. And the hopping and jumping she does in the name of dancing looks an extremely funny puppet dance without being intended to be so. She, in short, proves to be a complete burden to the picture, with a performance which looks at once stupid, inadequate and intolerable. Pradeep Kumar as Kumar looks a sleep-walker as usual. Ullhas as Bakhtavar and Murad as Sangram Singh do some usual loud, crude work. The rest deserve to be ignored.

In short, "Raj Hath" is an utterly undistinguished costume claptrap. It presents some whiskers, produces some noise and persecutes with its boredom.

RAJ HATH

Producers: **Minerva Movietone**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story, Screenplay and Dialogue: **Shams Lucknowi**
Lyrics: **Shailendra & Hasrat Jaipuri**
Music: **Shankar, Jaikishan**
Photography: **Lateef and Bhandare**
Sound: **Keki Eduljee**
Cast: **Madhubala, Pradeep Kumar, Sohrab Modi, Ullhas, Kammo, Murad, etc.**
Released At: **Liberty, Bombay**
Date of Release: **30th November, 1956.**

Directed by
SOHRAB MODI

OUR REVIEW

"Bandhan" Has An Interesting Story

Poor Direction Affects The Drama

Sircar Productions' "Bandhan", based upon Anurupa Devi's famous Bengali novel "Mantra Shakti", presents an interesting tale, rich and varied characterizations, a useful domestic theme and purposeful social comments with a strong but subdued emotional current running through the tale. Unfortunately the direction fails to measure up to the requirements of the story and other technical departments too make niggardly, if any, contributions to the story's appeal. And it is a measure of the interesting quality of the story that in spite of these deficiencies it enables "Bandhan" to become an interesting emotional picture and one which is a clear head, if not also shoulders, above the average fare.

"Bandhan" tells the Hindu wife that the deity which deserves her attention and devotion before all others is her husband and this message is tellingly conveyed through the story of an intensely religious woman who is devoted to Radhagovind since her childhood and believes that she must shower all her love on the deity alone and at least no fraction of it on her husband whom she is forced by circumstances to acquire. How she veers to the view that devotion to God which is achieved by callousness to human beings around is poor religion forms the interesting denouement of the story.

GOD VS HUSBAND

Bani is the girl so devoted since childhood to the deity, Radhagovind, and she seems to have inherited the religious zeal direct from her grandfather, for her father is a non-believer who spends his time reading books which carry titles like "There is no God". Bani loves to worship the deity with all the detailed ritual that goes with it and seriously regards herself wedded to the deity thus feeling no desire whatsoever to get married.

But two months before Bani is to attain the age of eighteen, the deceased grandfather's will is opened and it is discovered that if all the old man's property is not to be given away in charity, Bani's father, Ramavallabh, must see to it that before she is eighteen Bani gets married to a religious-minded youth from the same caste as Bani's. Realizing his daughter's religious devotion, Ramavallabh does not want to force her into marriage and is ready to forgo the inheritance, but when Bani realizes that doing so would also mean leaving their ancestral house and the adjoining temple wherein is placed the venerated idol of her Radhagovind, she consents to marriage. An ideal husband answering the description in the will is found in Amarnath, a young religious scholar with a social conscience.

Bani, already prejudiced against Amarnath because he slights ritualism and denounces things like untouchability, before the marriage makes him solemnly swear before God that he would wed her in name only and would assert no rights of a husband on her. The readiness with which the equally proud Amarnath gives the pledge and the unhesitancy and apparent unconcern with which he goes away from Bani after spending a lonesome wedding night in physical and emotional chill, leave Bani emotionally upset and carrying a germ of tender feeling for him. The rest of the tale shows that germ developing into a strong emotion in Bani who, without anybody's persuasion, gradually and silently begins to cherish a greater love for her husband than for her deity. It ultimately requires Bani's mother to goad Bani from her death-bed to join her husband, and Amarnath to become gravely ill, to make this

strange couple disregard their earlier pledge and unite in love.

POOR DIRECTION

A more sensitive and skilful direction could really make this story into an unforgettable emotional experience on the screen. But now the picture emerges as only an interesting tale with a purpose and a touch of emotion. A rather plodding and loose screenplay is partly to be blamed for the opportunity lost.

Technically, the picture is far from happy. Sets are well planned but not so well executed. Photography is amateurish. Sound is well recorded. The dialogue is more or less adequate. Hemant Kumar's music is good in bits but uninspiring generally and somewhat distinctly unmusical in one place. The lyrics are a rehash of old and familiar words. The direction makes one more sad at what it fails to achieve than pleased with what it does achieve.

From the players, Meena Kumari as Bani doesn't ofcourse look the 18-year-old girl of the story, but she plays the role with a good deal of apparent sincerity and understanding and, generally, correct expression. Pradeep Kumar rather fits the role of Amarnath which makes few demands on his talent, and therefore manages to look something more than tolerable. Motilal as a carefree character with rather freewheeling views on marriage and who is later reformed, gives a natural and confident performance. Shashikala as his wife seems to act neither with sincerity nor with intelligence and looks awkward throughout. David as Bani's father Ramavallabh appears, in a portion, wearing an ugly wig, and generally, a rather unctuous smile and irrelevant expressions. Whatever the reason David's is a disappointing performance in this picture. Achala Sachdev as Bani's mother speaks Punjabi-accented Hindi in the role of a Bengali character and becomes, to the ears at least, atrocious.

In fine, "Bandhan" is an interesting picture based upon a story which could have been made into a memorable picture. It is an opportunity missed.

A comedian is an intriguing problem in sex. You can never say when he will turn out to be "it" . Johnny Walker and Minoo tickle the audience together in "Mai Baap", a thrilling entertainer produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

BANDHAN

Producers:	Sircar Productions
Language:	Hindustani
Story:	Anurupa Devi
Screenplay:	Benoy Chatterjee
Dialogue:	L. K. Natwar
Lyrics:	Rajendra Krishan
Music:	Hemant Kumar
Photography:	Sudhir Mazumdar
Sound:	Mukul Bose
Cast:	Meena Kumari, Pradeep Kumar, Motilal, David, Achala Sachdev, Shashikala, Kammo, etc.
Released at:	Super, Bombay
Date of Release:	30th November, 1956.

Directed By:
HEM CHUNDER

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OUR REVIEW

"Rajrani Meera" Rapes The Memory of The Saintly Meera

Stupid Censors Pass A Stupid Picture

"Rajrani Meera", produced by Chimanlal Trivedi "in cooperation with M|s Delight Pictures (Private) Ltd.", is one of the most atrocious biographical essays ever perpetrated in celluloid. It is a picture which brings disgrace not only to its pathetically incompetent and ignorant makers but to the whole film industry.

Purporting to portray the life and devotionalism of the celebrated Krishna devotee, Meera, the picture emerges as an ugly and inane mythological crowded with miracles and supernatural events, completely contemptuous of history and totally devoid of any grace, skill or intelligence.

A well-known character of 16th century Mewar, Meera lived in the full glare of history though unconcerned with it. Hers was a simple yet inspiring life dedicated to God's worship, and certainly not a miracle-infested chapter from mythology. Filled with intense devotion to Lord Krishna since childhood, she lost interest in mundane existence after her marriage, and after her early widowhood dedicated the rest of her long life to worshipping her Lord, sang songs permeated with devotional fervour, and became one of the great preachers of the Radha-Krishna bhakti cult.

A FAIRY TALE

This ignorant and pedestrian picture, however, shows Meera as if she were a character out of the pale pages of the Puranas. Besides surrounding her life with the usual crude miracles seen in mythological pictures, it represents her as a greatly persecuted creature in her husband's home and later as a rather half-witted person who wanders here and there hugging a little idol of Krishna to her heart all the time and who seems to be fanatically in love with the particular idol than with that which the idol symbolizes. To inject some drama in the tale, the picture concocts some exceedingly loud and crude villainy in the person of Meera Bai's

Anxious! When a woman waits too long her thoughts begin to burn her heart and tears come into her eyes. Men never realize that women also have an imagination which sometimes hurts. Padmini is anxiously waiting and let us see for whom in "Payal", a social entertainer released by AVM.

husband's brother, Vikram Singh, who is shown as having no other occupation in life, in spite of being a ruler, except that of making unsuccessful attempts on Meera's life. In short, this picture is a heinous travesty of history with disgrace abounding and a sheer waste of celluloid.

The miracle-abounding tale begins with a full-grown Meera attending a 'Kirtan' with her father, who is named here Dadooji. Taking a great liking to the idol of Krishna, she asks the priest to let her take it home which the priest politely refuses. But when his refusal is followed by storm, rain and thunder, and the idol, becoming alive, admonishes the priest, he rushes with the idol to Meera.

Meera is then wedded to Chitor's Rana Bhojraj and right from the wedding day starts being tyrannized because of her preoccupation with Krishna-puja. Soon, frustrated in his marital desires, Bhojraj goes to some war and dies, and his brother Vikram Singh, taking the throne, unleashes a murderous wrath upon Meera. In spite of the deity staging numerous miracles, Meera is forced to leave the palace. She then starts on a trek to Brindaban and a final one to Dwarka where she dies on the steps of a temple but actually shown as being led inside the temple by Lord Krishna.

STUPID AND POOR

The production values are poor and clumsy. Sets are ugly, photography is erratic and sound recording incompetent. The dialogue is dull and unintelligent. The music is pleasant enough in places but generally all too familiar. The direction is stupid and pedestrian as one can imagine.

From the players, Sulochana plays the title role and looks thoroughly misfit and throughout uninspiring. Her face seems totally incapable of radiating any spiritual glow. Prem Adib as Bhojraj looks ugly and awkward, to put it mildly. Sapru as Vikram Singh just produces some unpleasant but familiar noise. Lalita Pawar and Roopmala respectively as Bhojraj's mother and sister have little work to do and in that little don't make much of an impression. Tiwari plays a priest and looks a murderer. From the rest, Mahipal keeps appearing and disappearing as Krishna. The spectator gets a relief when he disappears.

In short, "Rajrani Meera" is a bogus biography and one of the trashiest pictures ever produced. And it is a picture which constitutes a damaging testimony against the censors who are supposed to guard our culture and history from vandalism and misrepresentation.

RAJRANI MEERA

Producer:	Chimanlal Trivedi
Language:	Hindustani
Dialogue:	R. C. Pandey
Lyrics:	Mishraji
Music:	S. N. Tripathi
Photography:	N. Mistry
Sound:	B. J. Patel
Cast:	Sulochana, Mahipal, Prem Adib, Lalita Pawar, Tiwari, Sapru, Roopmala, etc.
Released at:	Central, Bombay
Date of Release:	7th December, 1956.

Directed By:
G. P. PAWAR

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OUR REVIEW

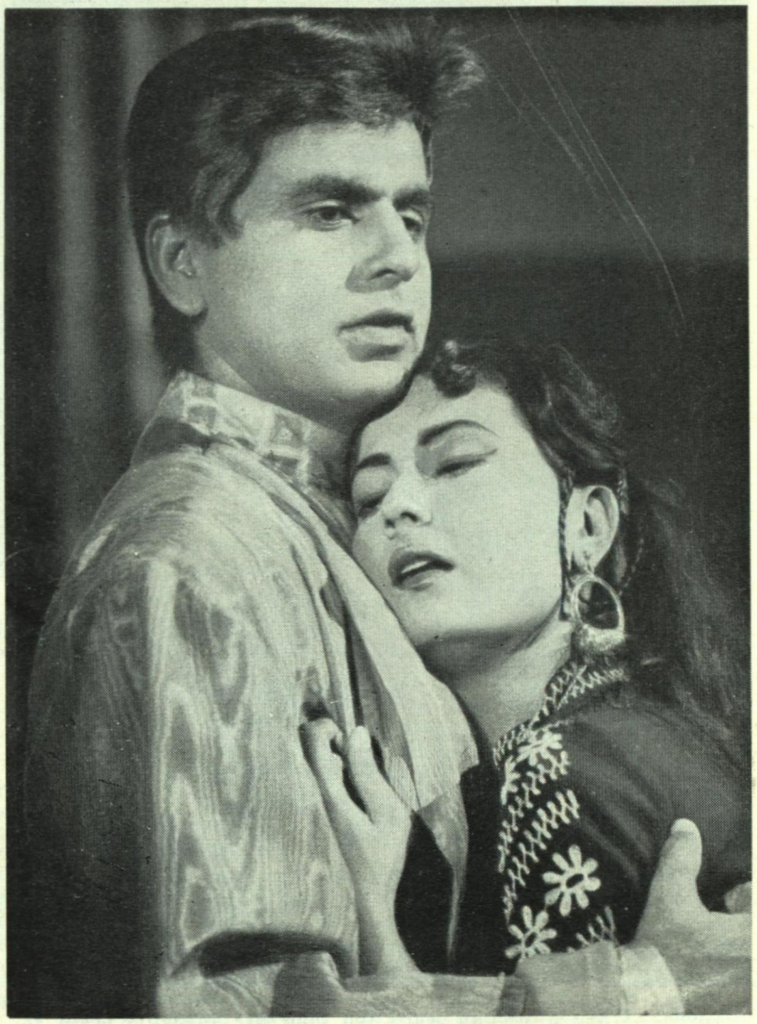
"Jagte Raho", A Scintillant Purposeful Satire

An Intelligent And Enterprising Picture

R. K. Films & Studios' "Jagte Raho" is a praiseworthy picture. It reveals intelligence, enterprise and skill. It provides entertainment and food for thought. And it is one of the few pictures in recent years which sustain hope in the future of the Indian film industry—an industry which is a mass of chaos and stupidity even in the year when, with more arithmetical justification than any other, it is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the 'talkie' and bestowing some pats on its own back.

Designed as a satire on the present day society, largely ably directed and painstakingly produced, "Jagte Raho" presents a purposeful theme with coherence and a certain amount of vehemence. The best thing in the picture is its small but stingingly satirical story which takes an innocent and thirsty villager inside a huge city mansion in search of a drink of water only to have him branded as a thief and chased from floor to floor and from room to room by the blindly and conventionally excited teeming inmates of the building among whom are many—too many —who are nothing but the scum of the earth and who are far greater enemies of society than what they eagerly presume and proclaim the innocent villager to be. The building and its inmates symbolize, in the story, the modern society, an edifice of hypocrisy, where substance is missed and shadows chased, where surfaces are scratched and depths rarely probed, where facades are admired and interiors rarely approached, where morality is a mask and prejudices are principles, where men refuse to think and behave like sheep, and where, in short, values of life are topsy-turvy. It is a clever and provocative story with an appropriate title which asks the slumbering society to keep awake.

The screenplay constructed to put across the theme is diluted with box-office concessions and is occasionally marked more by enthusiasm than by aptness, but, with all its defects it is one of the best screenplays that ever materialized into motion pictures. It has grip and bitterness and keeps the theme almost nearly in focus all the time. Its only unpardonable error is that towards the end it decides to resort to unblushing blatant preaching recklessly disregarding the fact that sermon and satire don't mix well and make a good entertainment.



Women are natural heart specialists. They count the male beats under the guise of seeking protection and size up the man in a minute. Meena Kumari and Dilip Kumar live their roles in "Yahudi-[illegible]", a thrilling romance.

ONE NIGHT TALE

The story, which takes place in one night, shows a village youth, in shabby clothes and a shaggy chin, freshly arrived in a big city, suspiciously Calcutta, in search of a job but more immediately and urgently searching for a drink of water. He drags himself along the wide streets but finds only hydrants and no watertaps, and the city gone to sleep. A policeman on the beat, becoming suspicious at the villager's sight, orders him to stop loitering in the area giving him a push that sends him sprawling on the ground. Picking himself up the villager begins to drag himself away and runs into a wealthy, tottering drunk who offers him liquor and a cigarette which the villager humbly refuses. The drunk then thrusts in his hands a currency note which is soon snatched away from him after a slap by the driver of a taxi called by the drunk.

The thirsty villager now sees a water-tap inside the compound of a huge mansion and following the example of a dog enters the compound through an opening in the iron gate to reach the tap. But as he barely begins to quench his thirst, the old policeman sees him again, cries thief, and sends the villager scampering into the mansion. The next moment the cry is echoed by other policemen and watchmen, the lights in the numerous flats of the multi-storeyed mansion blaze up, the inmates start pouring out of their flats, and the place, dead and silent a moment before, soon becomes a scene of hubbub and commotion.

The rest of the picture is a long, crazy and riotous chase for the innocent trespasser

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The hunted always become desperate in life and sow seeds of revolutions. Without the hunted, history would have stopped. Bina Rai and Premnath face a tense moment in "Changez Khan", a thrilling entertainer.

which is better seen than described. Packed with numerous interesting, and amusing incidents, and depicted with due exaggeration of a satire, the chase goes on for about 12,000 feet during which the innocent villager while running from floor to floor and rushing in and out of one flat after another to hide himself, discovers among the residents of the mansion illicit lovers, illicit liquor peddlers, counterfeiters, dissolute drunkards, unscrupulous gamblers and a variety of criminals, scoundrels and hypocrites. The climax shows the villager becoming an unwitting witness of the crimes of the counterfeiters and being forced by them to leave the building down an improvised rope of clothes. As he slides down the rope, the counterfeiting racketeers begin to apply the knife to it while the other end of it is set fire to by another resident. Meanwhile the crowds collected below keep hurling stones at the unfortunate man. The grim scene ends with a stone breaking a window-pane and exposing to view a figure of Christ on the Cross hanging on the wall inside. The analogy however is rather indiscreet.

Finally the villager manages to climb on to the roof of the mansion and when excited inmates pursue him there, he halts them sharply albeit with a funny piping voice and dishes out a harangue on society while asserting his innocence, and thus bringing the picture to a bathos. The crowd pacifies and instead starts chasing one of the counterfeiters who tries to kill the villager. After a meeting with an innocent child who talks to him affectionately and brings tears to his eyes, the villager walks out of the mansion to be at long last provided with that long-needed drink of water by a kindly girl in a temple, the brief character of the girl being played by Nargis. This little sequence almost seems to strain and struggle to remind us of something analogous in the private lives of the players.

Inclusion of a number of songs and a couple of dances, some oversentimental touches, the stupid harangue on the roof of the mansion, and the ending which unavoidably brings extraneous thoughts to mind, dilute the effect of this satire. But in spite of these, the picture emerges as an unusually intelligent and interesting effort.

RAJ—THE LAME DUCK

The production values are excellent. Sets are fine and realistic. Photography is skilful. The sound is well recorded. The songs are generally pleasantly tuned and the background music is effective. The dialogue serves the purpose but it could have been better. The direction by Sombhu Mitra and Amit Maitra is on the whole a clever and competent job.

This being entirely a director's and screenplay writer's picture, the artistes get little scope for a display of their talents. But within their respective scopes the majority of them do well. Raj Kapoor, as the innocent villager, doesn't seem to lack effort and sincerity but he does seem to lack genuine talent for the role. His eyes fail to convey the innocence and humility which he tries to achieve by twitching his facial muscles. And his expressions look assumed rather than native to the face which they should in a good artiste. On the whole his is a mediocre performance. Motilal is rather misdirected in the role of the wealthy drunk. Sumitra as his wife is mechanical and ineffective. Pahari Sanyal as the race-addict and Sulochana Chatterjee as his wife give two good performances in the picture. Nemo as the king of the counterfeiting racketeers looks and lives the role. From the rest, Pradeep Kumar as an illicit lover and Smriti Biswas as the object of his love, are adequate in small roles.

In fine, "Jagte Raho" is an intelligent, enterprising and interesting effort which deserves to succeed if our producers are to be encouraged to make better motion pictures.

JAGTE RAHO

Producers: **R. K. Films & Studios**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story & Screenplay: **Sombhu Mitra, Amit Maitra**
Dialogue: **K. A. Abbas**
Lyrics: **Shailendra, Prem Dhawan**
Music: **Salil Choudhary**
Photography: **Radhu Karmarkar**
Sound: **Allaudin**
Art Direction: **M. R. Acharekar**
Cast: **Raj Kapoor, Pradeep Kumar, Motilal, Pahari Sanyal, Sumitra, Sulochana Chatterjee, Nemo, etc.**
Released At: **Regal & Imperial, Bombay.**
Date of Release: **14th December 1956.**

Directed By:
SOMBHU MITRA & AMIT MAITRA

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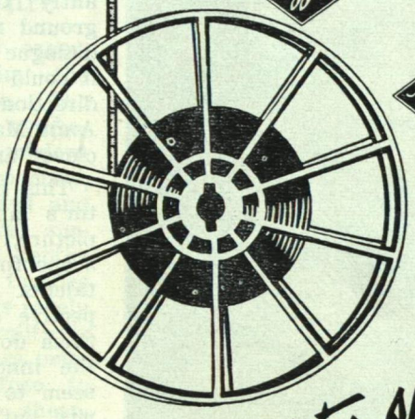

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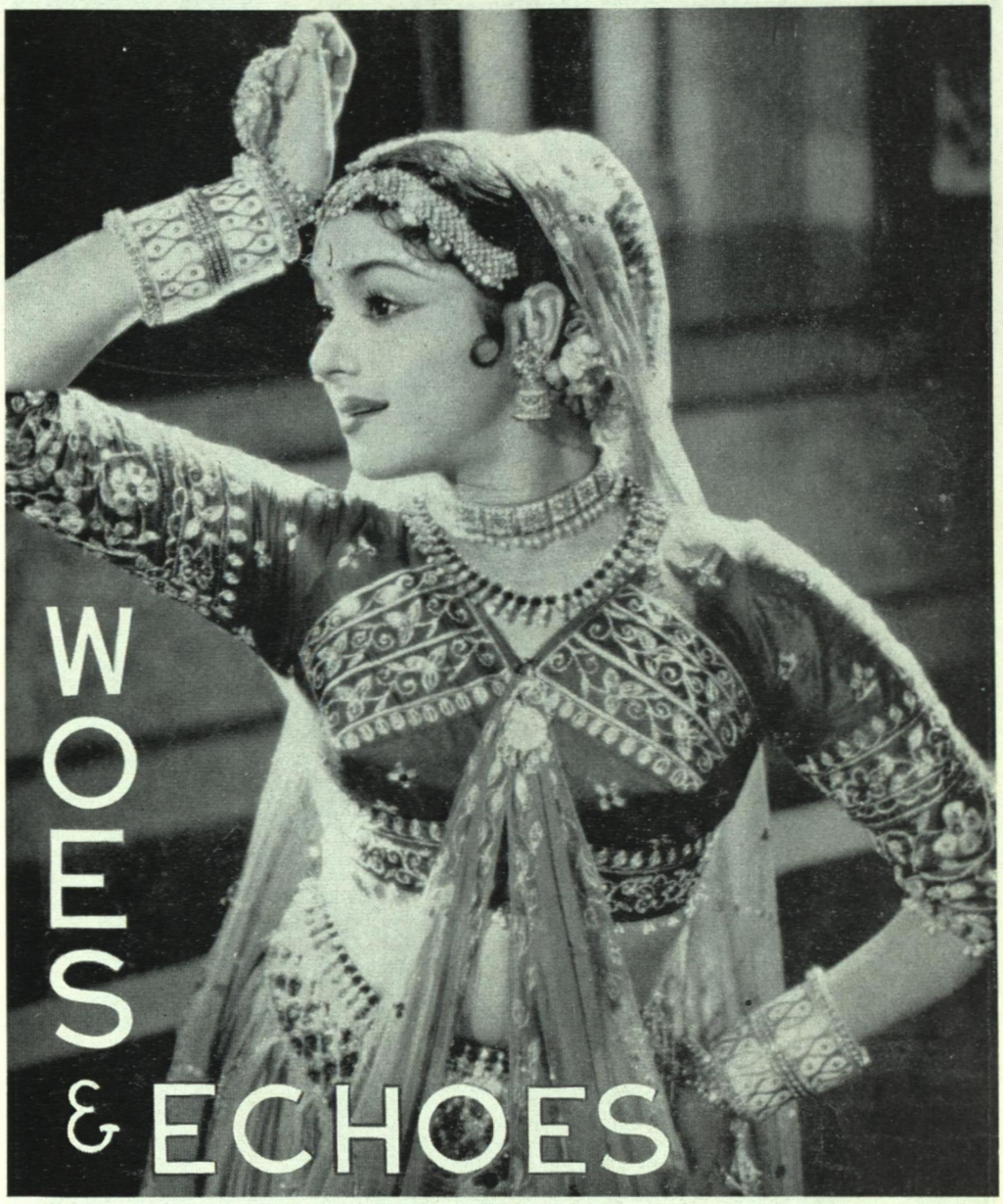
For particulars. SHARAD PRODUCTIONS, Nehru Road, Vile Parle, Bombay 24.



Shop fronts were not invented in the West. They existed even in ancient India, for when men went shopping they liked to see the goods however well-wrapped. Seeing the bride is an ancient social institution in India and bridal attire has therefore come to be associated with prospective marriage and motherhood, the two targets of a woman's destiny. Padmini is dressed to kill. To find out who is killed we must see "Payal", a social romance produced by Madras Talkies.

Letters submitted for this section should not have more than 25 lines. Rs.5/- will be paid for every letter published in this section.

WONDERFUL LIARS

"I give below an extract from the 'Evening Star' (Karachi 24th Oct. 1956) which editorially states: "Of course when it is the question of propitiating Lakshmi, the goddess of gold, all scruples about the divinity of the cow are really set aside, the Kalimata (the goddess of blood) proves a too obliging handmaid for the sacrificial offering on a commercial scale. Admittedly the "sacred" cow in the Panchshila abode is responsible for the spilling of more human blood than any other creature, so much so that the domestic animal has become the living symbol of majority community's genocidal beliefs and pursuits. But it is equally true and valid in the context to say that cow slaughter has always been among the lucrative businesses to which the Bania mind is instinctively drawn.

"In pre-partition days, mostly Hindu contractors in important centres used to hold and manage slaughter houses, though the consumers were mainly the Muslims. Now the blessings of independence have been showered in profusion on 'dynamically progressive peace-loving and secular' Bharat in the shape of cow-protection by means of minority extermination, but dollars in foreign exchange are held more sacred than the deified cow. Precious dollar-earning beef had to be saved from home consumption, which has been made possible by the forced exodus of a large segment of Muslim population to Pakistan and a ceaseless killing campaign against those of the minority left behind. Expediency has dictated that the basic article on bovine divinity in the "secular" Constitution should just be negativated to fatten the Bania-Brahmin hierarchy at the expense even of Mother Cow's blood."

"And now what have you to comment, Mr. Patel?"

BOMBAY. **K. S. Daryani.**

BUDDHA'S SHEPHERD

"I am generally inclined to be critical and cynical, but my feelings are all "positive" with regard to the Buddha and his religion. Except for Christ and some of the Hindu philosophers and saints, I have never felt even half of my spontaneous affection and admiration as for the Tathagatha with his wonderful life and his sound solutions to the world's evils. Though I have never wished to become a Buddhist as such, that religion has always immensely appealed to me and I have dreamed of its revival in India and its spread throughout the unhappy globe.

"My enthusiasm therefore knew no bounds when one fine morning I read in the papers a report of the simple but impressive ceremony at Nagpur where Shri Ambedkar fulfilled his long-standing threat to leave the Hindu fold with his followers, over three lakhs of whom he initiated into the Buddhist faith at a single stroke. I was thrilled and overjoyed. I announced proudly to my old mother, who has a strange apathy towards Buddhism though she acknowledges its founder as undeniably great and good, the amazing achievement of Dr. Ambedkar which heralded the regeneration of that religion in the land of its birth where it died smothered by the "fatherly embrace" of Hinduism. I had expected her to be impressed, but her reaction to the news was markedly lukewarm. She was not at all perturbed about the gains of the Buddhists or the losses of the Hindus, but she was eager to know what I found in this to particularly gladden or inspire me. Did I think that these three lakhs of ignorant folk, ("sheep in human shape" as she called them) became true Buddhists by merely repeating the "gachchamis' or that their lot would improve by this change of religion at the bidding and in blind following of their leader? Could there have been any real conversion or conviction in these illiterate and simple souls hardly likely to imbibe the message of the Buddha or put it into practice in their daily lives? She wondered how an ex-

Since Producer Kishore Sahu revived "Hamlet" on the Indian screen and reminded Indian producers of the mad character of Ophelia many love-lorn girls are becoming mad with their first jilting. Playing mad adds pathos to their romance. Women don't require much to upset their balance and Padmini gives a good account of herself in "Payal", a thrilling entertainer.

tremely intelligent man like Shri Ambedkar, whom she had heard of having framed our Constitution and whose rise to eminence in spite of his untouchable origin she greatly admired, indulged in such folly.

"On my explaining to her how the bitterness of the ages of oppression, exploitation and ill-treatment had accumulated in his person, she said it might be so, but how did the doctor think by converting large numbers of his followers to the new faith he could save them and undo all the evil? Some of her arguments appeared to me quite convincing and valid and after my initial gush had been tempered with reason I could see little of real religious or social significance or use in this mass conversion, nor could I recognise in it the type of revival I had in mind, or even a step in the right direction. Three lakhs of new Buddhists in a single day! The triumph of quantity over quality! I doubted, as my mother did, if many of them would even remember the "three refuges" or have the vaguest notion of the profound things they stood for. Simplicity and faith, rather than intellectual enlightenment, may enable them to attain Nirvana!"

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

NO CHANGE RACE

"Yet another big stone is hurled at Nehru, his Congress and its secularism by the Muslims. This time it comes from the President of the Indian Muslim League. Of the several resolutions adopted by the Council of the League, their decision to "take part in election as a separate political organisation" and the Congress Party's "following and supporting a policy of interfering with religious matters and showing but scant considerations to the feelings of the Muslim community on matters held sacred by them.....and has not taken proper interest and trouble to secure due and legitimate representations to the Muslims in the legislature and services of the country," are worth noting.

"These resolutions not only make a strange and incredible reading but will be received with strong indignation by the Indian people. The continuance of the League as a separate political organization will only have the effect of fanning the fire of fanaticism among Muslims into retaining extra-territorial ambitions. We have already had a "sample" demand through the Pakistan Leaguers for a separate homeland for the 40-million Indian Muslims.

"The unkindest cut of all was the charge of interference in matters of religion and "scant consideration to the feelings of the Muslim community". This expression is provingly set up to remind us of the unpatriotic Muslims' recent shoutings of "Hindustan Murdabad", "Pakistan Zindabad" in the country. Their further accusation....."and has not taken proper interest and trouble to secure due and legitimate representations to the Muslims in the legislature and services of the country". The Maulana Sahib and his Education Ministry could be singled out as a monumental citation to outcry this.

"The League's persistent and obstinate perversity is only matched by its self-stultifying inconsistency and political puerility. Its President should ponder over what has happened to the League in Pakistan. If he still chooses to continue his lamentations, he may do well to pack off to Pakistan with as many followers, and revitalise the League there which has suffered a political knock-out in that country.

"With the creation of Pakistan, a new chapter began in India and there should be no going back to the old intractable communal slogans of pre-partition days.

According to prominent, responsible and respectable Muslim gentlemen, Nehru is hailed as the best custodian of Muslim interest in India. Some time back Pandit Pant asked those who cried for establishing a "Hindu Raj" to quit India. Therefore in this matter of vital interest to India, the Government must be alert and the leaders bold and firm to ban this League as an organization in India and bury it comfortably in a deep dug pit.

"No one would be so foolish as to deny the Muslims of India a political party of their own, constituted purely on economic grounds. If the love of individual liberty is genuine, the remedy is not persistence in mixing up religion and politics, but cooperation with others in maintaining the secular State. If India is secular, it is also democratic. The Muslims should understand that goodwill begets goodwill; the Britishers are not here to lend their support for whatever the Muslims do or say, but it is the will of the Indians that will ultimately prevail. The Indians also, have reached a limit of tolerance. Therefore a vital change of heart on the part of the Indian Muslims is as necessary as it will be graceful".

GUNTAKAL. **M. Manavalan.**

OUR SLEEVELESS LADY

"Smt. Vijayalaxmi Pandit, India's High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, said recently at Allahabad that the word 'ladies' was considered 'terrible' all over the world and suggested that the 'ladies' club' she was inaugurating should better be called a "women's club".

"I beg to differ. I hold that the difference between a woman and a lady is the same as that between an ore and a finished product, or between a natural pearl. For this "culture" is the one thing that distinguishes a lady from a woman. A woman becomes a lady when she becomes "cultured" enough to smoke, shake hands and dance with men, to kiss farewells and dress to uncover her body instead of to cover it. Do all 'women' qualify in this test? By no means. And so, Madam Pandit, women will be women and ladies will be ladies, and in India that is Bharat never the twain shall meet".

KALYAN CAMP. **Mrs. Lalitadevi.**

CALLING JAGJIVAN RAM

"It is indeed very kind of our Postal Department to show some courtesy to its customers once a year by observing a 'Courtesy Week'. But it would be more appreciated if our Postal Department observed an 'Honesty and Efficiency Week' once a year instead of a 'Courtesy Week' for, at least during this one week we can then safely send or hope to receive our letters, book posts, unregistered packets without any tampering or delay. Will the Postal Department take up this suggestion? I suppose they can bear honesty for at least a week. That is not much of a punishment in a whole year".

BANGALORE. **J. B. William.**

KESKAR'S AWARDS

"Writing under "Dr. Keskar's Award Tamasha" Judas describes vividly how the presentation of Annual State Awards has been deplorably reduced to an affair in which the film industry has neither any appreciation nor interest. Apart from a woeful lack of a well defined system of evaluating the films for awards, the whole presentation affair is so staged without any plan, thought or imagination that it is better described as a fiasco than a farce. It is not less surprising that this year even our President refused to grace the occasion under the official pretext of indisposition and our ever-talkative Nehru gave away the prizes in his rare silence. It is difficult to say whether this was due to his lack of inspiration owing to the absence of charming chaperonage of a Devika Rani or his incertitude as to the earthly utility of these film awards. Anyway the whole affair was devoid of any glamour or interest either for the film

Not quite sure! When a woman starts suddenly thinking, she stares. Thought is such an unusual guest in a woman's mind that she has to open her eyes wide and let it have a little sunlight from outside. Women usually think in youth when the danger is the greatest. Once they cross the bed they invite dangers every day. Let us see what Padmini is thinking about in "Payal", an expensive motion picture.

folks or for the press or for the public at large.

"So long as men like Dr. Keskar and his Ministry continue to meddle with the affairs of our film industry without any concern or right approach to human factor and unless the entire method of these film awards is changed on lines suggested by Judas, the State Awards are bound to flop every year without arousing any interest whatsoever. Or else as Judas curtly observes, it will be wiser to discontinue the farce any longer to save time, money and energy which can be put to better use".

BOMBAY. **Mansukh G. Bhagat.**

NO HALF MEASURES

"I have been reading carefully the "Reviewed in Hollywood" section of "Filmindia" since its inception in June, 1953. I have been greatly benefited by its strong and forceful language which has increased tremendously my power of speaking. All these years I have been wondering whether the Hollywood Moghuls read 'Filmindia' or not; whether they care for its reviews or not. Surely they do read it and care for its reviews but they don't seem to follow them. The vocabulary used in this section is, in general life, applied to characterless persons or elements. Here are some of the words, picked at random from the stock piling up from month to month, in the alphabetical order: anti-social, barbaric, blood-and-bullet-filled, brazen, brutal, condemned, contemptible, corrupt, criminal, dangerous, demoniacal, demoralized, depraved, detestable, devilish, disgraceful, disgusting, disorderly, disreputed, distasteful, embarrassing, enigmatic, flagrant, felonious, frivolous, foul, graceless, gory, grisly, gruesome, heartless, hellborn, hideous, horrible, idiotic, infamous, infernal, immoral, imperfect, jejune, jerky, killing knick-knack, lamentable, lewd, lusty, malicious, mephistophelian, naked, nefarious, nonsensical, objectionable, obnoxious, polluted, prodigal, profane, profligate, questionable, quizzical, rancid, rancorous, recreant, repulsive, rotten, sadistic, salacious, satanic, scandalous, sickening, sinful, shameless, slanderous, sordid, stinking, tyrannical, ugly, unblushing, unpalatable, unpleasant, unprincipled, unscrupulous, unworthy, villainous, violent, vulgar, whimsical, wicked, worthless and zero in entertainment. In these strong words, you kicked the Hollywood Moghuls and though they deserve every word one must say the variety of words at your command takes one's breath away".

NEW DELHI. **Mohan Lal Mohan.**

POOR CHRIST

"I congratulate you for your bitter but true article 'Footprints of Christ'. I have verified some of the references given by you. A Christian friend of mine (a ruined fellow) has agreed with your article. I won't tell you his name but he told me the following story:

"His parents were poor. He wanted to read in the college in F.Sc. He could not get freeship. He was attracted by a Christian who promised him not only to pay his college fees but also to send him abroad after F.Sc. The condition for this was to become a Christian. He agreed. His father was fiery and turned him out. His mother went mad and died afterwards with the shock, as he was the only son and had four younger sisters. The Christian gentleman treated him very nicely for the first month but ran away to some unknown place afterwards. My friend was no more than an orphan. Now he is married and has children. He agrees that his work is to preach otherwise he shall have to starve. He says, "We are sinners and shall remain so, for we do every sin in the name of Christ".

PATIALA. **Yogendra Kumar Khosla.**

FLAG ABOVE FLAG

"The Kashmir Constituent Assembly has decided that Kashmir shall have a separate flag of red colour with a white plough in the middle of it. Apart from the possible meaning of a red flag with a plough in it, a meaning which might not be farfetched in a Kashmir where Communists are so powerful as to have seats in the Ministry, it cannot be gainsaid that a separate flag for Kashmir is a grand debacle of Pandit Nehru's policy vis-a-vis Kashmir.

"All nationalists of the country (including the late Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji) have been agitating for "Ek-Vidhan, Ek Pradhan and Ek Nishan". They realized and were asking the people to realize that these were the three pre-requisites of a genuine integration of Kashmir with the rest of India. The Constitutent Assembly of Kashmir has stated that such a union has been accomplished. And yet there is a separate Premier, a separate Constitution and, to emphasise the separation, a separate flag. Written constitutions and oral pledges are all very well, but the fact stands that the unity of a people cannot be real unless it is emotional. But how can this emotion be realized when a separate flag, the public symbol of separation, is always there to curdle it? Separate premiers and separate constitution may be matters of politics and administration. But a separate flag is a matter of national sentiment. Hence the flag that will flutter in Kashmir will always remain the most forceful reminder of the utter failure of our Prime Minister regarding this State."

BOMBAY. **N. K. Wadhwani.**

YOU ARE WELCOME

"The idea of a Ministry for State Funerals as propounded by you in "Filmindia"

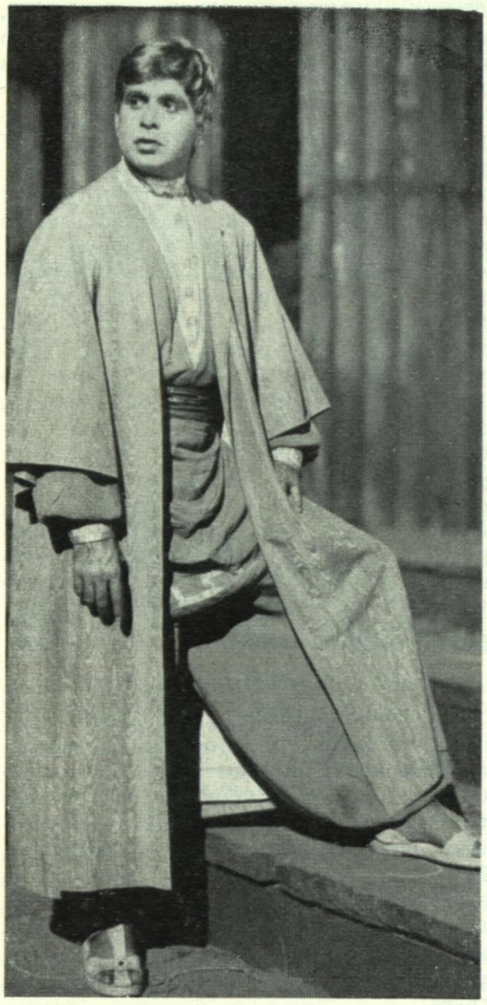
In desperation women look defiantly at heaven. They want to know why a woman in love should be made to suffer so much of agony merely to please a man. Meena Kumari brings some pathos to the screen in "Yahoodi-[illegible]", a thrilling romance.

is at once original and throws light from a new angle on the Congress misdeeds in our country. The whole article is abundantly humorous and presents itself as a biting satire on the showy life of the ruling clique. On digesting its contents, one cannot help weeping with one eye at the sorry plight of the Indian people brought about by Congress maladministration while with the other he appreciatingly laughs at the subtle artistry employed by the writer to describe the irritating situation. So, thank you very much, sir, for such a fine piece of journalistic literature".

AJMER. **Mrs. Kanti Sinha.**

RED BUDDHISM

"Readers would be pleased to note that your views as manifested in your leader in the November issue are very much substantiated and corroborated by no less than the self-exiled head of Buddhists in the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania known as Rev. Karlis A. M. Tennisons. On his arrival at Patna from Kathmandu after attending the 4th



This fellow takes offence when some one tells him that he is staring at young girls. He calls it absent-mindedness. But that is Dilip Kumar's subtle art and he makes the best use of it in "Yahudi-[illegible]" and gets a girl for whom millions are sighing.

World Buddhist Conference, Rev. Tennisons expressed the view that Buddhism and Hinduism were not two different religions. He said that Buddhism in fact was a part of the greater religion of Hinduism. Rev. Tennisons, speaking in Estonian also averred that even Europeans today were attracted towards it and significantly enough Communist Russia had for the first time permitted delegates to attend the Buddhist Conference at Kathmandu.

"Would any doubting Thomas even now suspect the bonafides of your excellent article, "Dragon's Teeth"?".

ARRAH. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

MODERN CHRISTIAN

"Shri R. Dasgupta has pounced on you with a vehemence which a person of your hard-hitting habits is sure to relish, but he has failed to show any of the tolerance and broad-mindedness which true Christians, like Hindus, are supposed to possess. It is highly doubtful if he is the sort of Christian who would offer the other cheek. His counter-attack to your editorial is a far cry from the polite, reasonable and dignified defence put forward by Mrs. Dharmaraj. His description of your editorial as a rabid and unscholarly rigmarole cannot go unchallenged. Do so many authentic facts and the tributes to Christ and to true Christianity constitute a "magnificent display of ignorance, malice and fiction?" By calling you one of them does he not imply that the Brahmins of olden and present days are mendacious deserving to be castigated by cultural Christians like St. Xavier? On the other hand, is it not a fact that you are a non-Brahmin and have enough cause for grouse against the privileged community yourself?

"As for his allegations that your sources are all "contaminated" and that you have "twisted and perverted" history, it may be true that you have been guilty of some unfairness and exaggeration, but I would like to know what Shri Dasgupta has to reply to the following extracts dealing with Catholic proselytism in India taken from standard books on the subject written by eminent and impartial Western authorities who cannot be accused of having an anti-European or anti-Christian bias:—

"There can be no doubt that this horrid tribunal (The Holy Inquisition) formed a most powerful instrument in the hands of the Christian missionaries which they knew well how to use not simply in its terrible reality of imprisonment, torture and public execution by fire, but also in the terror which it inspired among men and women of all ranks, ages and creeds. To its influence may be attributed much of the rapid success in the spread of Christianity and the triumphs of the Roman Catholic faith". ("Portuguese Discoveries, Dependencies and Missions in Asia and Africa" by the Rev. Alex J. D'Orsey, B.D., Knight Commander of the Portuguese Order of Christ)

"Again, in the same book by the above author:—

"....The most unscrupulous use of means was made by this Order (The Society of Jesus) to play upon the passions of men, to apologise for vice, to tolerate imperfections, to authorise violation of every law, human and divine. In point of fact, the Jesuit Code seems to have been composed less with the view of elevating human nature to the level of divine morality than with the object of lowering the standard till it was much below the average of ordinary humanity".

"In his monumental work, "A Forgotten Empire", Mr. Robert Sewell wrote:—

"The Fathers of the Church forbade the Hindus at Goa and elsewhere under terrible penalties the use of their own sacred books and prevented them from all exercises of their religion. They destroyed their temples and so harassed and interfered with the people that the latter had no liberty at all and were liable to imprisonment, torture and death if they worshipped after their own fashion the gods of their fathers".

"Any number of such quotations could be given, if space is permitted. The Hindus can be said to have shown a remarkable tolerance in the face of such persecution perpetrated on them for no other fault than of peacefully following their religion and customs. Though the days of force are long over, fraud is still working in many cases and in various forms. For condemning these undesirable methods of proselytism which really bring no credit to Christianity, Shri Dasgupta has accused you of attacking his religion. Do the above extracts also appear to him as "rabid, unscholarly, perverted anti-Christian propaganda?"

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

THE SUPREME CENSOR

"The reason why censorship in India is inefficient, stupid and confused at times is that our masses are that way and in the prevalent type of democracy our Censors are people from the masses without any special training for the job of censoring pictures which, in my opinion, is an art akin to film editing.

"In Pilani I found that on the walls of the central auditorium of the Birla Education Trust pictures of Indian historical places have been put up. One of these pictures, about 60" x 30", shows the tall Jain statue of "Sravan Belgola" of Mysore made in 938 A.D. The genital organ of the naked male figure has been done away with and a creeper has been painted in its place by a not-to-good artist. Beside this auditorium, there is the Central Museum of the Trust where there is a model of the 'Sun Temple' of Konarak (1250 A.D.). In this model various poses of figures in the act of copulation have been shown as they are in the original. The Museum is open to students of all ages. Now can you understand the policy of censorship of the Birla Education Trust?

"The fact is that we are rather confused about the moral standards we should adopt. And so are our Censors who are representatives of the people. They will go on behaving in a bewilderingly stupid and confused manner till they get some positive directives from Prime Minister Nehru about the moral standards to be adopted in judging pictures. His instructions seem to be necessary in even the smallest matters of administration these days and they are needed in this case too".

SIRSA. **Surender Dutt.**

KING SHAPURJI'S MINE

"If K. Asif's 'Moghul-E-Azam' does not prove to be a case of a still-birth the picture will come to the screen after setting

His daughter is going out with a young man of whom he does not approve. That is a worry which all parents have when their little babies grow into big maidens and the dogs around start sniffing. Sohrab Modi, our veteran character-actor, gives an unforgettable performance in "Yahudi-ki-Ladki", a sensational romance produced by Savak Vacha.

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a new record of taking the longest time in the making. The picture was announced in 1942 and after 14 years the date of its release has still not been announced. There can be possibly two reasons for this. One can be the monetary advantage to Asif if he is a salaried director. The other can be that Asif has little faith in the capability of our make-up experts. He wants to take as much time to make the picture as the incidents of its story took to happen actually so that the characters change their shapes and figures in a natural manner. If these reasons are true, is not Asif our "Genius-e-Azam"?"

PILANI. **Shiv K. Parti.**

CHRISTIAN APOLOGY

"I read with considerable astonishment Mr. R. Das Gupta's letter (from Bishop's House, Dibrugarh) appearing in the November issue. Though everyone has a right to express his viewpoint and ventilate his grievances (the main purpose of this column of 'Filmindia') Mr. Das Gupta has chosen to write most unChristian words in an overwhelming measure and thereby brought entire Christianity into disrepute. It is futile to expect Shri Das Gupta to make amends for his guilt. On behalf of the Christian Congregation of the world I offer my most humble apology to our revered editor for the unkind and unChristian words used by Mr. Das Gupta in his letter."

MANNARGUDI. **D. William Moses.**

NEHRU'S MATURE SHOW

"In the October issue of "Filmindia" I read of the fantastic Bill No. 37 of 1956 by which a Hindu shall be prohibited from styling or proclaiming himself as a sadhu or sanyasi unless he is duly registered and has obtained a license from the Government. The introduction of this Bill is a singular example of inventive genius.

"You have posed two questions: "Can crime be eradicated by maintaining a Register and licensing a sadhu"? and "Does that (up-to-date) register of criminals (kept in every police station in the city) control the incidence of crime?" Let the inventors of the Bill who claim that "it will save the saintly order from infamy and unnecessary exploitation" and "will help the Government in the detection of many crimes in which so-called sadhus and sanyasis have a hand", answer you.

"The introduction of the Bill clearly and ominously shows the following facts about the ways of our government. It proves that:—

(1) Parliamentary procedure is being regarded as mere pastime.

(2) Our Congress parliamentarians can be depended upon to do absolutely nothing except vote as the whips direct.

(3) They never ask themselves those most essential questions: "Is this what the present emergency calls for?" or "Is this right?" It seems these people can think of reforms for the Hindus only. They are going to divide the Hindu saints into two categories now. We will have legal saints and illegal ones."

PILANI. **Shiv K. Parti.**

SEASONING BEFORE EATING

"Speaking at a special showing of his "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" to the delegates of 77 Nations assembled for UNESCO Conference in Delhi on November 13th at Sapru Hall, Shri V. Shantaram said, "And now I will tell you about the leading lady of "Jhanak Jhanak." I can say with all emphasis that she is the simplest film star of the world. In private life, she wears no ornaments, no make-up, no dresses of different colours. She dresses herself only in one colour, the colour which is becoming scarce these days in the present war-torn world—the colour of peace—white. Here she is—Sandhya—meaning evening. I am afraid you will not be able to recognise her when you see her on the screen. She is a different person in private life and she is entirely different when she is before the camera. She has got zeal and patience both. So much zeal that in order to attain maximum perfection in art, she worked 15 to 18 hours a day and ultimately underwent a serious operation in hospital. She showed so much patience that she stayed in plaster for 24 hours on all the days of those six months." After this, one can well understand the cause of rift between Shantaram and his wife Jayashree. To sum up, "Yeh Kahani Hai Shantaram Aur Sandhya Ki"."

MADRAS. **S. A. Hasnath.**

NEHRU'S FAMILY SECRETS

"In the excitement of the Middle East and Hungarian crises, we have forgotten the dismal performance of the Indian Intelligence Service, if there is any, in forwarding its reports to the Foreign Ministry prior to these events. Shortly before the Suez flare-up, both our representatives in Britain, as well as, in Egypt were holidaying. In Hungary there was not even one efficient man who could report anything prior to or after the events there.

"Rumours, which may come true are again coming that Pakistan is arming herself to the teeth and is preparing to attack Kashmir and India and annex Goa. Open diplomacy may be a pious dream, but it is suicidal in practice. What India needs is a high-class Intelligence-Service and not high-flown words!"

MEERUT. **P. C. Bansal.**

THE LAUGHING CORPSES

"The Hungarians seem to have a robust sense of humour. This surmise owes its origin to the fact that even at this grim hour of blood-curdling tyranny of the Russian jackboot the posters displayed on the walls of Budapest are not without an element of tragic humour. One cannot but marvel at the funny commentary on the prevailing situation in that country provided by a poster which warns Hungary's population of 10 millions that "ten million counter-revolutionaries are at large in the country." The posters are calculated to drive home the "truth" that those leading the revolt are "counter-revolutionaries."

"But the classic poster on the city walls is reported to read, "Wanted: Premier for Hungary. Qualifications: No sincere conviction, no backbone. Ability to read

Youth has a defiance which in its sweet arrogance brings the man nearer a woman than otherwise. Meet Shubha Khote in "Dekh Kabira Roya", a sensational theme produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

and write not required but must be able to sign documents drawn up by others. Application should be made to M|s. Khrushchev and Bulganin". Does it activate one's lachrymal glands or evoke his sardonic laughter, Mr. Patel?"

ARRAH. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

BLIND FOLLOWERS

"I very much appreciate the language, tone and contents of the long letter from Mrs. Dharmaraj about the missionary controversy which you have had the fairness to publish in your November issue. But I wish to draw the attention of the kindly mother to some of the erroneous facts and impressions contained in her lengthy and dignified communication. With all due respect to her religious sentiment I would also like to point out the fallaciousness of one or two of her typically Christian arguments.

She seems to have gathered the false impression about your editorial, fostered no doubt by your pungent and (to many) "unhealthy" approach to your subject. Mrs. Dharmaraj has accused you of attacking the fundamental beliefs of her religion, which is not correct. To make sure, I read your editorial over again, but nowhere did I find any abuse or ridicule of Christ or Christianity as a religion. You have only condemned the Catholic Church which has been guilty of the worst kind of offences against humanity as many Christians would themselves admit. Nor have you made any sweeping statements about the Christian community in India or outside. You have only traced the unholy alliance of the Church with power, wealth, imperialism and the like, leading to its corruption and degradation, as in the case of many an other priesthood, religion and proselytising organisation.

"That the followers of Christianity do not believe in the sword is a claim which it would be difficult to uphold. It is well known that the spread of Christianity, as of Islam, was facilitated more by force and fraud than through peaceful and legitimate conviction and conversion. Mrs. Dharmaraj seems to forget that while she is herself a highest product of Christianity, Christians have been responsible for the most flagrant and unpardonable violations of the laws of humanity of which

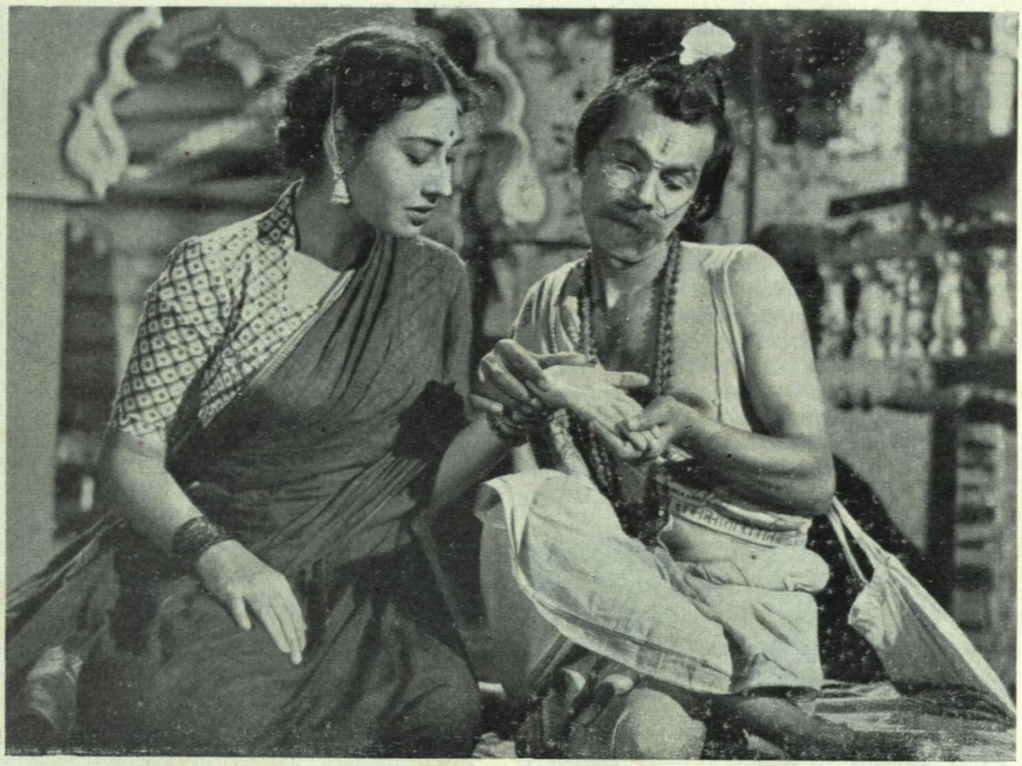
This is the smile of triumph and satisfaction. You see this on women in the first year of their marriage—precisely in the third month of pregnancy. Though a maiden still, Shyama plays the role pretty convincingly in P. N. Arora's sensationally new social story. He has not named the picture yet because he is also in the third month of pregnancy of production and it is too early to guess what he is going to deliver.

the Holy Inquisition is but a notorious example.

"I fully agree with Mrs. Dharmaraj that Christians in India should never be treated with suspicion by the others. Nevertheless, I think she underestimates the possible danger from foreign missionaries and a small section of the population in league with them for it is the nature of the activities that determines the extent of the harm, if any. The Portuguese at Goa, a tiny pocket in the huge body of our land, are capable of providing us so much worry not because they are great in number or power, but because of the opportunities they get for doing any dirty work. Moreover, she overlooks the fact that no one has said or done anything against the Christian community as such. Appointing a committee to inquire into some of the activities of a few foreign missionaries does not amount to unfair treatment of an entire community. It is the Christians who have made an undue fuss over this whole affair. And how can they be so sure that there have been no foul practices or suspicious activities involved, requiring investigation? If the Hindus feel that their interests are in jeopardy do they not have the right to voice their grievances to the Government and is not the latter justified in doing the needful in the matter?

"As regards the deity of Jesus Christ, leaving aside religious conviction and fervour, would it be possible to call him a god if at all we should regard him as a historical figure and not a mythical creation? At least to non-Christians, there seems to be no reason to believe that Jesus was God any more than was the Buddha or Gandhiji in our own day. Jesus' claims that he was the Son of God and the Light of the World do not rationally alter the position. Many others have thought themselves as agents of God and been worshipped as such by their followers, but that does not make them divinities on that argument. Nor is the unparallelled success of Christianity a proof of the godhood of Jesus. Gandhiji, who

They turn round and see to catch the worm also looking. Women have various ways of inviting trouble which never makes them perspire but which leaves the man breathless. Anita Guha gives a new meaning to sex in "Dekh Kabira Roya".



A woman always thinks that her palm contains not only the name of her future husband but also his measurements. That gives an excuse to the old Brahmins to get a few rejuvenation shocks. Of all people Chand Usmani meets Johnny Walker to read her lines in "Duniya Rang Rangeli", a thrilling romance produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

had become almost a demi-god in his own life-time, (he was regarded and referred to by many as the "eleventh avatar") sometimes used to declare that he had actually seen Rama in a waking state, but no one called him a liar for it even in these irreligious and sceptical days. If we make reason, commonsense and science our criteria, the historical figure Jesus cannot be regarded as a Son of God except in a figurative sense. By the way, (this is not a part of the argument) was not Jesus greater as a man than as a god? At least he is so to us Hindus, who have a multitude of divine insipidities in our pantheon.

"I wish Mrs. Dharmaraj would dispassionately reflect on these points and also remember the fact that the Hindus who have patiently borne all the insults and ridicule of their gods and religion (pagan though they be) from the Christian missionaries all these centuries without persecuting them except in self-defence or sometimes in desperate retaliation have shown a tolerance scarcely inferior to that exhibited by the Christians who have desisted from any unpleasant demonstrations or actions in reply to your provoking editorial."

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

A BAD CHRISTIAN

"Anger rather than reason seems to have prompted R. Dasgupta to write in the manner as he has done in the November issue of "Filmindia", as a reaction to your excellent editorial "Footprints of Christ". His letter, amusing as it is, evokes pity rather than sympathy. He states: "The article (your above editorial) would seem to be part and parcel of a campaign set afoot by certain fanatics to vilify Christianity and Christian missionaries in the hope that such a campaign will lead to the expulsion of the latter and the extinction of the former". Any thing more foolish than this allegation can hardly be imagined. Let him remember that the expulsion of the Christian missionaries will greatly help preservation of the religious amity of our people and security of our nation which are constantly threatened by subversive activities of the foreign missionaries. His fear that as a result of the alleged campaign against Christianity, it will meet extinction, clearly shows what scant faith he himself has in its greatness which has withstood over twenty centuries. It is the feeble faith of followers like Dasgupta and his ilk who in violation of all historical facts have reduced Christianity to a shaky and cheap affair thus giving it a bad name.

"Dasgupta labels your article as "the most rabid anti-Christian writing," which in fact highlights only those acts of commissions and omissions with the sole motive of conversion which are perpetrated by the clergy in the name of Christianity. Nowhere in your article there is an attempt, even unconscious, to deride Christianity which as you unequivocally assert truly remains a great and noble religion ever. Pertinently enough your article does not spare even Hindu priests for you have observed: "It is the Church and the clergy that seem to have given Christianity a bad name **even as the Hindu priesthood has disgraced the practice and philosophy of Hinduism through ages.**" If this is not a fair and impartial assessment of historical facts, what else is?"

BOMBAY. **Mansukh G. Bhagat.**

DOUBLE TALK

"George Orwell writes in his famous 'Animal Farm', "All animals are equal but some are more equal". Our Government seems to follow the Orwellian maxim and have equal friendship for all countries but more equal with some of them. For instance when England and France attacked Egypt our Prime Minister was instantly on his feet, condemning the "naked" aggression and moving heaven and earth to stop it. But when Hungary was over-run by Russian armies, the Prime Minister and his Government maintained a stubborn silence. In the eyes of our Government all countries are equal but it seems Russia is more equal than England."

BOMBAY. **Hariram G. Jugat.**

BHAI-BHAI

"Do you know that Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Mr. M.S.A. Baig, has his mother at Panchgani in India and his brother, Mr. M. R. A. Baig, is Joint Secretary to India's Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. Pakistan's Senior Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. S. K. Dehlavi, has a brother carrying on business in Bombay, Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Secretary, Mr. Chhattari, is the son of Nawab of Chhattari, who is an Indian national, a member of the Rajya Sabha and Pro-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. Both the brothers of Mr. Mohammad Ikramullah, Pakistan's High Commissioner in London, are in India and are Indian nationals. One is the Chief Justice of a High Court in India, while the other is a leading businessman of Bombay. General Habibullah, Commandant of the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla near Poona, is a distinguished Indian, while his brothers are equally distinguished Pakistani citizens. Mr. Azim Hussain of the Indian Civil Service is a trusted official in India's Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, while his brother Mr. Nasim Hussain belongs to Pakistan's Foreign Office. Do you think there is anything to comment over?"

KALYAN CAMP. **Mrs. Lalitadevi Jugat.**

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